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Giant 'Saipan' sign stands in Marpi

By BEA CABRERA
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REPORTER

A giant Saipan sign now stands at scenic Marpi.

The Marianas Visitors Authority unveiled the sign last July 10, 2017.

It is visible on the way to another iconic Saipan site, the Grotto.

MVA managing director Chris Concepcion said the idea came to him early in his tenure at the islands' tourism body.

"When I came on board at the

MVA last year, I asked my Destination Enhancement team to come up with designs for massive destination signs that will attract attention and become landmarks in the Marianas," he said.

"We decided that giant 'Saipan,' 'Tinian,' 'Rota,' and 'The Mari-

See GIANT on Page 4

Saipan resident Zhang Wei gives his aunt Li Pao Ran, cousin Lu Wei, and niece Qi Yuxin a tour around the island yesterday and they stopped by the Saipan giant sign to have their photo taken. "It is my relatives' first time on Saipan. They are enjoying and like what they see. They want their photo with the giant Saipan signage so family and friends back in China know they are here," Wei said. The giant Saipan signage located along Marpi Road going to Grotto was unveiled last July 10, 2017 by the Marianas Visitor's Authority in their continued efforts to promote tourism in the CNMI and have people share their destination information with their family and friends.

BEA CABRERA

'With a signature, all was lost'

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinaires@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI has gotten for itself a mulligan—a chance to make another shot—at the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument. This time, it wants a change in how the monument is managed. The Senate even wants the designation scrapped.

In a letter yesterday to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, representing the CNMI, pointed out that none of the promised benefits of the designation have been fulfilled.

The Senate itself was more scathing, saying in a resolution that national marine sanctuaries are "neither needed nor wanted" in the CNMI.

These came about after President Donald J. Trump issued Executive

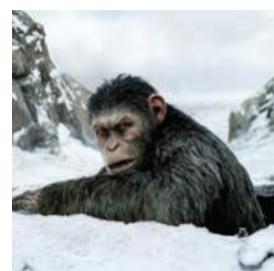
» Senate and Torres against marine monument

Order 13795, which directed the Interior Department to review national monument designations under the Antiquities Act, the federal law that empowers a president to designate protected areas. In line with this, the EO mandates Zinke and Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross to revisit the designation of the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument, among other monuments.

Because of its current status, the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument prohibits the fishing and

See WITH on Page 4

ASIA
Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe says he will reshuffle his Cabinet next month.



LIFE & STYLE
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INSIDE



BUSINESS

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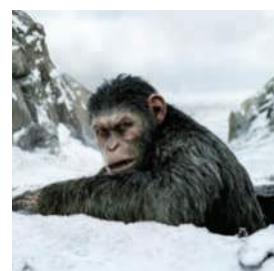
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ASIA

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe says he will reshuffle his Cabinet next month.

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GOT A NEWS TIP?

TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

Supplemental briefing sought in DOC director's case

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The prosecution and Department of Corrections director Gregory Frank Taitano Castro, who is accused of misusing a government vehicle, were directed yesterday to sub-

mit supplemental briefing on some legal issues.

Castro's bench trial at the Superior Court was also moved to Aug. 8, 2017

Castro's trial began on Monday, with defense counsel Rene Holmes moving to dismiss the citation, as well

as a motion asking the judge, Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho, to reconsider his ruling regarding amending the citation against Castro.

Camacho heard the parties' arguments on the motions and continued the matter yesterday at 1:30pm.

Camacho heard further the arguments from Holmes and assistant attorney general Jonathan Wilberscheid.

After hearing the arguments yesterday, the judge noted that this case may have far reaching ramifications beyond Castro's case, which may affect

how traffic cases and ethics violations are charged and filed in court.

Camacho ordered the parties to submit supplemental briefing that provides legal authority to support their positions on what must be included in a charging document to provide sufficient notice to satisfy a defendant's due process rights, and on Castro's motion to reconsider the court's ruling regarding amendment of the citation.

Camacho gave the parties until July 31 at 4pm to submit their supplemental briefs.

Holmes argued that the court should dismiss the entire citation because the prosecution failed to follow the rules.

CUC water project gets \$4.5M grant funding

The Federal Emergency Management Agency recently awarded \$4,518,008 to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. for its water system mitigation project through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres noted that the project will better prepare the islands during times of natural disasters and emergencies and further the goals of CUC to provide for more reliable water service to the community.

"When Typhoon Soudelor hit, water service was cut off for the entire island because there was no electricity to

Holmes said the citation is improper as it does not include any facts and lacks a notice of the charges.

Wilberscheid argued that the citation is absolutely correct and that the court should not grant the motion to reconsider as there is no new evidence presented.

The Office of the Public Auditor allegedly caught Castro using a Corrections vehicle, a 2015 Nissan X-TERRA, to go to the Marianas Country Club in Marpi in the morning of March 15, 2017, to play golf. He was cited and the vehicle was impounded.

Castro, 58, pleaded not guilty. In an earlier interview, he stated he was doing business at the Marianas Country Club when he was issued the citation.

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Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

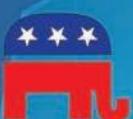


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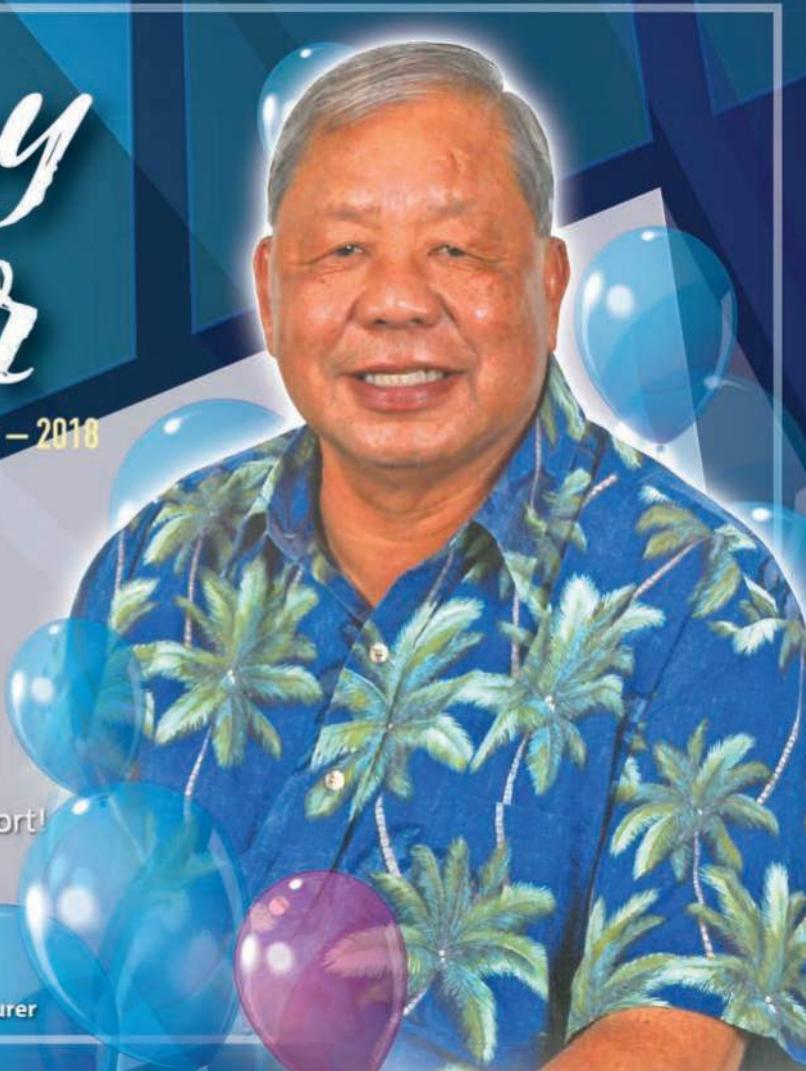
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Torres commended CUC, the CNMI Capital Improvement Projects Program, and the CNMI Hazard Mitigation Grant Program for their coordination in securing the award.

"This is just one of several steps that we are taking together to address some of the operational and infrastructure challenges we face. I commend CUC, CIP, and our Hazard Mitigation team for putting together a solution so our community is more resilient and can enjoy reliable access to water in the long term," he said. (PR)



The Rotary Club of Saipan presents its Citizen of the Year award to Jose "Joe" Ayuyu of McDonald's Saipan.

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Joe Ayuyu is Rotary's Citizen of the Year

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Rotary Club of Saipan presented its Citizen of the Year award to Jose "Joe" Ayuyu of McDonald's Saipan last Tuesday during the Rotary's meeting at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

According to past Rotary president Mike Sablan, the award is given to an individual who exemplifies the Rotary's fundamental standards of integrity, ethics, and service.

"Joe is a shining example

of the balance of a hard work ethic, competitive business nature, personal integrity, and service," said Sablan.

Ayuyu was born on Saipan on April 24, 1952, to Juanita and Esteban Ayuyu. His leadership skills were recognized early on after he was elected class president of his junior

class at Marianas High School in 1969 and then received an opportunity to complete his senior high school year in North Dakota.

Ayuyu earned a degree in Economics and was soon appointed to the CNMI government's Department of Com-

See JOE on Page 4

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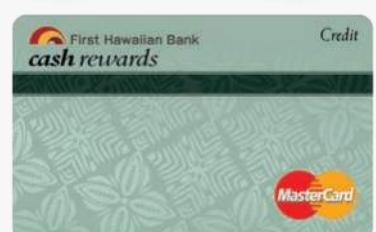
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Swimmers complete 7.25-km lap from Pau Pau to Managaha

Four Dolphin Club Saipan swimmers walked out of the water and onto the sand of Managaha Islands on Saturday to the cheers of friends and family after swimming to the island from Pau Pau Beach—a distance of 7.25 kilometers (4.5 miles).

The swimmers—Ray “Boss” Alvarez, Jeremiah Benavente, Andrea Carr, and John O. Siren—are graduates of the Dolphin

Club’s Adult Learn-to-Swim program.

The swimmers were participants in the “Eagle Ray Swim,” one of the open water swims in Dolphin Club Saipan’s “Summer Fun Open Water Series.” They had kayakers to guide them and a DPS Boating Safety escort to monitor the swim and keep motorized boats away. The first swimmer clocked in at three hours and



From left, Ray “Boss” Alvarez, John O. Siren, Jeremiah Benavente, and Andrea Carr.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

JOE

From Page 3

merce.

Afterwards, Ayuyu started a career in Bank of Guam, serving as vice president and manager of Guam, Saipan, Chuuk and Majuro branches.

The next phase in Ayuyu’s career had him managing over

300 employees as vice president and general manager of Hakubutan during the peak period of Japanese investment and tourism on Saipan.

What sets the stage for Ayuyu’s widespread impact on Saipan is his role as developer and owner of the McDonald’s restaurants chain on Saipan and in Guam.

Although Ayuyu’s busi-

nesses required an enormous amount of personal commitment to its operations, he always found time to give back to the community over the last 30 years.

Ayuyu chaired the CNMI Tax Task Force and the CNMI Foreign Investment Board, was vice chair of the Governor’s Council of Economic Advisors, chair of the Friends

of the Beach Road Parkway, a member of the CNMI 902 panel, sponsored Little League baseball and other sports, sponsored the CNMI Crime Stoppers program, sponsored the “Run Against Crime” 5K event for the past 18 years, and served on the Chamber of Commerce boards of Saipan, Chuuk and Majuro, and many other community organizations.

mining extraction in the area and has remained so since January 2009.

During discussions back in 2009, an agreement between the CNMI and federal governments to designate the area as a national monument included the understanding that a co-management plan would be created between the two governments, an increase in patrols for illegal fishing in CNMI waters, and other incentives such as the establishment of a visitors center in the CNMI which could help alleviate the loss of access to natural resources.

According to Torres’ letter, none of that has happened.

“Although the CNMI does

in general support the environmental goals and protections

behind the creation of the

[marine monument] as good

stewards, we have since the

designation of this monument

under the Antiquities Act been

required to carry the burden

of an over-expansive federal

program that should be reas-

sed,” said Torres.

In yesterday’s Senate

session, Sen. Arnold Palaci-

os (R-Saipan) introduced

Senate Resolution 20-05,

requesting that Zinke and

Ross to restore the fishing

and mining extraction rights

“that were taken from the

CNMI...to their rightful

owners, the people of the

Northern Mariana Islands.”

SR 20-05 also states that

national marine sanctuar-

ies not be established in the

CNMI as they are neither

“needed nor wanted.”

“I am highly favorable of

this resolution,” said Sen. Six-

to Igisomar (R-Saipan). “With

a signature, [all] was lost.”

He cited opposition to the

14 minutes and the last at 4 hours and 24 minutes.

The Dolphin Club provides free swim lessons to adults with little or no swim experience. Lessons are fun and do not require advance booking. Instruction is tailored to the skill levels of the participants who show up on any particular day. Appropriate swim wear is whatever is comfortable, from shorts and T-shirts, to rash guards and swim wear. Swim goggles are provided.

The lessons focus on open-water, distance swimming. Graduates are able to swim a mile or more comfortably and safely. All ages of adults are taught, from 18 up with many swimmers in the 40-60 years age range. Especially welcome are those who need help getting over their fear of water.

The Adult Learn-to-Swim schedule for the remainder of July is:

- 2pm-3pm, Saturdays at the Kan Pacific Pool in Marpi
- 6am-7am, Mondays and Wednesdays on the beach behind the Hyatt Regency Saipan
- 6am-7am, Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Guma Sakman in Susupe (exceptions: 4pm -5pm on July 18 and July 20)

There are two more swims remaining in the “Summer Fun Open Water Series”: The Pau Pau to Tanapag (2.25 km) swim on Saturday, Aug. 12 (registration 6am-6:45am; start 7am) and the Harvest Moon Swim on Wednesday, Sept. 6, at Guma Sakman (registration is 7pm-7:45pm; swim starts at 8pm).

Dolphin Club Saipan is the Water Safety Program of 500 Sails. For more information see the 500 Sails swim page at <http://www.500Sails.org/swim> or visit the Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/500SailsDolphinClubSaipan>. (PR)

WITH

From Page 1

mining extraction in the area and has remained so since January 2009.

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Sen. Paul Mangloña (Ind-Rota), was the only one that voted against the resolution. Mangloña said in a brief statement that he believes the resolution was done in haste and “wishes for more time to discuss.”

Pew supports designation

Angelo Villagomez of the Pew Research Center in Washington, D.C., noted that Palacios himself, who was the House speaker when the marine monument proposal was on the table, had supported the designation, along with former Senate president Pete Reyes.

Pew backed designating the Marianas Trench as a national monument since the late 2000’s.

“[SR 20-05] brings up some of the frustrations that the local people and the government have on the pace of development of the monument. We share those frustrations; we are also disappointed,” he said, adding that this doesn’t call for “throwing the baby out with the bathwater.”

Villagomez said what the CNMI should have been doing is “asking for these benefits to happen,” referring to the unfulfilled promises by the federal government regarding the designation of marine monument.

“The Trump administration is particularly positioned to actually put these benefits to fruition,” he said.

When asked if he supports SR 20-05, he said: “No, I don’t support opening up our waters to industrial fishing. That’s what this resolution does.”

GIANT

From Page 1

anas’ signs would be a good way to build brand recognition for our destination. In all my travels around the world, the one thing that always stood out were these enormous signs and we wanted that for the Marianas,” added Concepcion.

The giant Saipan sign provides attractive visuals. The letters are durable, built on a platform made of concrete and painted in white, in contrast

with the blue of the ocean behind it and the lush green trees that stands at the side. MVA hopes that it becomes one of the most photographed structures on island.

“The destination sign will promote Saipan and provide for additional brand exposure for the Marianas. Visitors will take photos here, upload to social media, blast in out into cyberspace, and help promote our islands as a destination,” Concepcion said.

The giant sign was erected in Marpi because of the area’s rich history. Marpi

is filled with World War II relics and memorials about the war and several tourist spots like Banzai Cliff and the Grotto.

“Marpi is a historical area. It is visited by thousands of tourists and residents on a daily basis. Because there is ample land area with green space available, we chose it as the launch area for our destination sign program.

“We plan to install some down south, in the Garapan area, and other scenic locations throughout the island as long as there is enough

space with ample parking,” Concepcion added.

He said the giant sign will add value to the tourists’ experience while on Saipan. He said MVA envisions the same experience on Tinian and Rota.

“We plan to roll out giant Tinian and Rota signs in the coming months. Shipping will be an issue, as well as permitting, but we definitely plan to install giant destination signs on Tinian and Rota soon. We have our designs ready to go already,” Concepcion said.

Before opening, Aquino is looking at getting back the museum’s running water. Based on previous records, the museum was without running water for almost three years. Aquino also plans to completely redecorate the museum by changing the museum’s storyline and updating the canvases that will display the artifacts.

According to Aquino, IT&E has committed three small air-conditioning units for the museum and he plans to repair the 4,000 BTU air-conditioning unit that the museum already has.

IT&E and businessman Juan Santiago Tenorio have also promised to donate 20-foot containers where the museum can store the artifacts that will not be displayed in the museum.

According to Aquino, the

renovations to the museum

would not be possible with-

out the help of the Saipan and

Northern Islands Legislative

Delegation, the Marianas Visi-

tor’s Authority, Gov. Ralph

DLG Torres, and the support

of companies who see the im-

portance of preserving histori-

cal artifacts.

NMI

From Page 1

completely demolishing the air-conditioning ducts and the vegetation that had grown in the cracks. After completely taking apart the roof, workers placed layers of sealant on the roof in order for the new roof to withstand the elements, Aquino said.

According to Aquino, because of the outstanding repairs made on the roof, he is certain that leaks will no longer be a problem for the

museum.

The next phase would be to renovate the museum’s plumbing and broken waterlines.

Aquino said the museum’s floors were completely flooded because of the damaged pipes beneath the floors and within the walls. The corroded waterline all over the museum was what flooded the entire museum, Aquino said.

He is looking at fixing the plumbing and re-painting the museum’s walls simultaneously. That would speed up the renovation process.

Blanco: AG bill does not clip AG's power

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinaires@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rep. Ivan A. Blanco (R-Saipan) said that House Bill 20-43 HD2, which passed the House of Representatives Thursday last week, only clarifies the duties and responsibilities of Attorney General Edward Manibusan and does not clip his power.

Blanco told *Saipan Tribune* that his bill merely clarifies the duties and responsibilities of the attorney general.

According to the bill, the attorney general should be the first in the line of defense for the CNMI government agencies in legal battles. It mandates the attorney general to represent, defend, and stand by the CNMI government's wishes.

Blanco made the clarification to counter the arguments raised by opposing lawmakers.

Blanco pointed out that the attorney general still retains the authority to review all contracts and documents of the government but only for legal sufficiency and upon the request of the agency. Whether



or not the contract would push through for implementation would

depend on the agency head.

"The drafting and approving of regulations and contracts should rest with department heads and agency heads," said Blanco.

In a letter to the U.S. Supreme Court dated June 30, 2017, Manibusan had stated that, despite filing of a petition to re-appeal the *Davis vs CNMI* case on Article XII, he did not authorize the filing of the petition.

It was reported by Blanco that Gov. Ralph DLG Torres had sought the support of Manibusan to represent the CNMI in the re-appeal. Manibusan reportedly declined. When Torres sought the assistance of an external legal counsel, Manibusan said in the same letter that, according to CNMI law, only the attorney general could represent the CNMI government and its agencies.

As provided in H.B. 20-43 HD2, if the attorney general declines to legally represent the CNMI government in a case, then the CNMI government may seek external legal representation.

The provision was inserted during Thursday's House session and was passed by the House.

The bill now awaits Senate action.

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Saipan's rich history in a nutshell

CNMI historian Don Farrell has updated a book he first wrote 26 years ago.

Saipan: A Brief History, which Farrell wrote in 1991, has been updated up to the 20th Legislature, to include new administrations and Chinese and Korean versions of the publication. Its cover shows an aerial photograph of the iconic Managaha Island.

To launch the updated publication, Farrell held a book signing on June 29 at the American Memorial Park museum.

Farrell described his book as the history of Saipan in a nutshell, highlighting the key events of Saipan's long and in-depth history.

He said he decided to publish a Korean and Chinese version of the book in order for tourists

to learn about Saipan's history.

In June's book signing, a short film was played to showcase the pictures that the book features, starting from the ancient Chamorro era up to photos of Saipan today.

Farrell has also written about the history of Guam. His books have been used in history classes.

Rep. Edwin Propst (Ind-Saipan), who was present at the book signing, said the book is informative, well written, and that he will continue to read it to his children for them to learn more about the island's rich history.

Saipan: A Brief History is an easy read without scrimping on the important events and details of not only Saipan but the Northern Marianas as well.

It gave a glimpse of how pre-Spanish society on the islands thrived and how the Spanish were so threatened by the natives' flying *proas* that they totally outlawed them.

The following German and Japanese colonial periods, according to Farrell, ushered unprecedented economic growth in the islands and gave the indigenous population access to education that was not available during the Spanish era.

World War II was a clash of titans with Saipan an unwitting battlefield for American and Japanese forces, much to the dismay of the island's local population, according to Farrell.

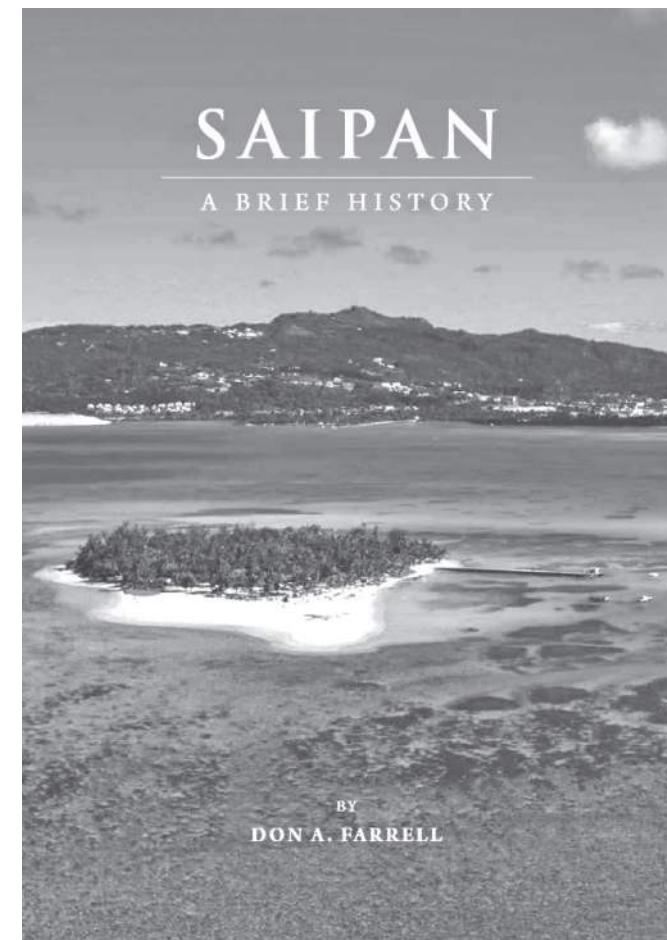
Post-war life on the Saipan was described by Farrell as a slow and steady journey to

self-government as the island, along with Tinian and Rota, inched toward becoming a commonwealth of the U.S., which included an unsuccessful attempt to reunify with Guam.

Farrell also gave a rundown of CNMI governors from Dr. Carlos S. Camacho to Ralph DLG Torres and their respective achievements during their terms.

Farrell's *Saipan: A Brief History* is a must-read for history buffs. It can also be a favorite for those who just love to collect coffee table books with its rare photos of pre-World War II Saipan and post-war life on the island.

Not only does the book appeal to islanders, but also it appeals to other ethnic groups that come and want to learn more about the island's history. Tour guides could also use this book in order to give actual historical facts to tourists. (Kimberly A. Bautista)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The cover of *Saipan: A Brief History*, which Don Farrell first wrote in 1991, shows an aerial photograph of the iconic Managaha Island.



**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works**

2nd floor-Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950



INVITATION FOR BIDS DPW-17-IFB-022

PROPOSED TOILET FACILITIES FOR ROTA VARIOUS LOCATION

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for Proposed Toilet Facilities for Rota Various Location, Rota Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after **June 28, 2017** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations currently in effect."

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAIC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITUOUS, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

There will be a Pre-bid Conference for this project on **July 18, 2017**, 10:00 a.m. local time at **Rota Mayor Office, Rota**. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **July 28, 2017** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547**. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547**.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgement of addendum, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/9838 no later than ten (10) Calendar days before the scheduled bid opening.**

Sealed bids must be marked "DPW-17-IFB-022". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located in the former Emergency Management Office, Ascension Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m. local time August 3, 2017**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **10:00 a.m. local time, August 3, 2017** and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **August 3, 2017** and the BID documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **August 14, 2017**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascension Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, on August 17, 2017. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:30 a.m. local time, on August 3, 2017.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashiers check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety requiring approval of the Attorney General must be pre-approved prior to bid submission. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations \$70-30.3-245. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

- a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
- b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

- 1) Cash
- 2) US Gov't Securities
- 3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
- 4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
- 5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is **One Hundred Eighty (180) calendar days** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed at the rate of **Three Hundred (US\$300.00)** for each and every day the work is delayed beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

JAMES A. ADA
Secretary of Public Works

HERMAN S. SABLAM
Director of Procurement & Supply

A 49-year-old man was arrested in Tanapag on Monday for allegedly sexually assaulting two minors.

Miguel Cecilio Arrozal, who works with the housekeeping department at Aqua Resort Club, was taken before Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho yesterday on charges of sexual assault in the second degree, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

A \$50,000 cash bail was imposed on Arrozal; preliminary hearing is on July 18.

He is represented in the case

by assistant public defender Nancy Dominski. Assistant attorney general Betsy Weintraub appeared for the government.

A police officer responded to a residence in Tanapag after receiving a call about a sexual abuse case. The officer met with a woman who alleged that Arrozal sexually abused two girls.

According to the complainant, an 8-year-old girl was crying on Sunday night after Arrozal allegedly gave her money, then kissed and touched her.

The defendant also alleg-

edly gave money to a 10-year-old girl and kissed and touched her last week.

In an interview with the 10-year-old girl, she disclosed that Arrozal touched her on three different times.

A police officer escorted Arrozal to the Department of Public Safety's Criminal Investigation Bureau that Monday morning.

In an interview, Arrozal explained that sometimes he would kiss the two minors on the cheek and slap their buttocks. (Ferdie de la Torre)

CUC says it abides by safety rules

By BEA CABRERA
bea_cabrera@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Despite the accident that killed three men working on a Commonwealth Utilities Corp. sewer well, the agency would like to ensure the public that it abides by the rule that there is no compromise to safety.

CUC deputy executive director William B. Gilmore said this is their philosophy with the work and service they put out and the mindset when they hire a contractor to accomplish a project for them.

"CUC is extremely safety oriented and we have this in mind when we enter into agreements with contractor to do projects for us," said Gilmore. "The contract language that goes out in any of our contracts has an extensive safety element in it that is required of every contractor."

CUC also emphasized that the incident occurred under the watch of the CUC contractor, USA Fanter.

When CUC farms out a job to a contractor, CUC is not allowed to step in and give orders to the contractor. Ac-

cording to Gilmore, "It is the contractor's work site as if they own it."

"We are only there to open the door and give them the goal of the project. Outside of that, it is their site to fix, maintain and operate."

CUC counsel James Sirok said he is comfortable with CUC's position on the matter as they wait for the police report to be finished.

"This is similar to...a turnkey project. It means the contract with the contractor is to do a specific project and at the end of the project, the contractor turns it back over to you in operational condition," said Sirok.

There is no other role that CUC plays other than perhaps to ensure that the project is constructed according to design.

The project with USA Fanter Corp. Ltd. was one where the contractor owned the project.

"There is no requirement for us to be a regulatory agency for that contract," Sirok added.

He pointed out that the contractors CUC awards a particular project to are bona fide CNMI business license

holders. Another essential element set by CUC in getting a contractor is its Occupational Safety and Health Administration accreditation.

"We have to make sure that the contractor adheres to OSHA regulations and procedures," Sirok said.

"We expect contractors are OSHA-oriented, along with other required regulatory conditions. The contractor is obligated to make sure that their employees are trained and certified so that they can meet and handle situations. That is what our contracts require," Gilmore said.

"We also want to emphasize that our rules also require that we indicate clearly at the first pre-construction meeting that the contractor is in charge of its own methods, sequencing and method of doing business," Gilmore added.

The incident last Friday was a first in CUC history.

"Again, we are very sorry for what happened. We definitely sent our condolences to the family and we hope such incident never happens again," Gilmore said.

Corporate sponsors sought for history conference

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council is seeking corporate sponsors for the upcoming 3rd Marianas History Conference that will be held at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan on Sept. 1-2, 2017.

The conference, with the theme "Milestones in Marianas History," will feature keynote addresses by Julian Aguon, Dr. Carlos Madrid, and Dr. Laura T. Souder, and 35 local, regional and international presenters whose new research will address a wide range of topics relating to the Mariana Islands.

The conference is free of charge and open to the public. Seating will be on a first come, first served basis.

In addition to presentations,

the conference will also include a movie night, during which locally-produced films will be screened, and tours of historic sites around Saipan. Books on Marianas history, culture and social issues will

plays, advertisements in the official conference program, and recognition in media releases and conference materials.

New sponsors will join several prominent companies and organizations that have already pledged their support including the Bank of Guam, J.C. Tenorio Enterprises, the *Marianas Variety*, Triple J Enterprises, Docomo Pacific, Lollipops, Inc., the Marianas Visitors Authority, Moylan's Insurance, and Saipan Shipping.

Interested businesses are invited to visit the council's website www.northernmariashumanities.org for more details including the sponsorship benefits package and pledge form. Or call council staff at 235-4785. (PR)

also be offered for sale.

Businesses may choose to support the conference as gold, silver, bronze or general level sponsors. Each sponsorship level comes with a benefits package that includes such things as banner and logo dis-



3rd Marianas History Conference
ONE Archipelago, Many Stories: Milestones in Marianas History



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

BOARD OF PAROLE

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PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

The Honorable Ralph Dlg. Torres, Governor and the Honorable Victor B. Hocog, Lt. Governor, through the Board of Parole Office, and pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section II of the "Open Government Act of 1992", hereby give Official Notice that Preliminary Hearing is scheduled for July 17, 2017 (Monday) at 10:00 a.m. at the CNMI Board of Parole Office Conference Room, Building No. 1216 located at Capital Hill, Saipan, MP 96950. The following individual(s) will appear before the Hearing Examiner.

A. Parolees

- 1. Ray Anthony Babauta
- 2. Alvin Pua Lizama

Cr. Cs. No.: 09-0231
Cr. Cs. No.: 11-0213T

B.O.P. No.: 13-007
B.O.P. No.: 14-001

If you have any question or need additional information, please contact the Board of Parole Office at telephone number 664-3300 or 664-3302.

/s/ Ramon B. Camacho
BOP Chairman

July 10, 2017
Date



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 17-065

Opening Date: Wednesday, July 12, 2017
Closing Date: Until Filled

ENGINEER, P.E.

DUTIES: The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is a government utility providing power and water utilities to the islands of Saipan, Tinian and Rota and wastewater utility to the island of Saipan. The incumbent of this position is under the overall supervision of the Deputy Executive Director (Water and Waste Water) or his/her designee. The duties and responsibilities are as follows: Coordinates and meets with other divisional sections and corporate divisions to coordinate activities and projects. Supervised engineering support staff to include: prioritizing and assigning work, conducting performance evaluations; ensuring staffs are trained; and, making, hiring, termination, and disciplinary recommendations. Performs project management activities to include preparing reports, memorandums and recommendations; developing scope of work, providing technical reviews; surveying for projects, evaluating proposals, monitoring project process, approving payment, and, recommending award of projects. Prepares engineering designs, plans and specifications, collects date and performs research. Troubleshoots systems and equipment. Reviews work performed by engineers. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level as required by CUC and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). CUC is under a Stipulated order of the United States of America vs. the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Civil Case 08-0051 filed in the U.S. District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands.

LOCATION: Grants/Water & Wastewater, Engineering Division, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA. (Saipan has a population of about 50K. It is adjacent to Asia and about a 3-hour flight south of Tokyo. It is about 100 miles north of the US Territory of Guam)
SALARY: Starting at \$110,000.00 (Commensurate with qualification and experience)
If hired from outside the Northern Mariana Islands, terms and conditions of the relocation cost will be negotiated. However, the accommodations shall not exceed \$5,000 for moving to the islands and shall not exceed \$5,000 for moving away from the islands.
CONTRACT: Two (2) years, subject to renewal
POSITIONS: One (1)

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Master's degree in civil, mechanical, or electrical engineering. Registration as a Professional Engineer pursuant to the National Council of Engineering Examiners standards in either the civil, mechanical or electrical branch; Experience of ten (10) or more years as a professional engineer. **Demonstrate the following:** Proven management and communication skills; Demonstrated ability to lead, motivate, and develop staff; Competency and proficiency in overseeing major drinking water and wastewater systems during the periods of planning, design, construction, and operation of drinking water systems' production, treatment, and distribution, and in wastewater treatment, collection and conveyance systems. **Knowledge of:** Safe work practices; Applicable Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules and regulations; Project management principles; Mathematical concepts; Construction principles; Engineering principles and practices. **Skill in:** Monitoring and evaluating staff; Prioritizing and assigning work to staff; Managing multiple projects; Interpreting and applying Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules and regulations; Interpreting drawings; Preparing a variety of technical report and/or documentation; Presenting technical information to management, public groups, and other related individuals; Reading and interpreting scaled drawings; Preparing specifications, plans, and cost estimates; Conducting studies; Using computers and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Must have a U.S. driver's license. Applicants maybe tested. Subject to a pre-employment drug screening.

Drop off your CUC Employment Application at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration Office. Otherwise, e-mail to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

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Office of the Mayor
Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan

P.O. Box 59 San Jose Village, Tinian, MP 96952 • Tel: (670) 433-1800 • Fax: (670) 433-1819

INVITATION TO BID

ITB17-MOT-173

Tinian Lookout Observation Deck

Mayor of Tinian Joey Patrick San Nicolas is soliciting sealed bids for the Construction of the Tinian Lookout Observation Deck. The project package will be available on Wednesday, July 5, 2017 at the following locations: Tinian Mayor's Office, San Jose Village, Tinian; and the Tinian Liaison Office, Navy Hill Rd, Navy Hill, Saipan. A \$100.00 non-refundable fee for the project package will be assessed. All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Certification Clearance (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, as revised through May 24, 2001. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

There will be a pre-bid conference and site inspection for this project on Monday, July 17, 2017, 10:00AM ChST at the Henry G. Hofschneider Conference Room at the Tinian Mayor's Office, San Jose Village, Tinian. Bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the project location and current condition. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 PM ChST, Friday, July 21, 2017 to the CIP Office, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, or faxed to (670) 664-2408. All responses to questions should be shared with other prospective contractors.

Sealed bids must be marked "ITB17-MOT-173: Tinian Lookout Observation Deck". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 9:00 AM ChST Friday, August 4, 2017. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 9:00 AM ChST Friday, August 4, 2017 and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than Friday, August 4, 2017 and must be received no later than Friday, August 11, 2017. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 AM ChST Friday, August 11, 2017. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:00 AM ChST Friday, August 11, 2017.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) a bid security of fifteen percent (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashier's check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 70-30.3-245. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000.00.

Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

- a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
- b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceeds the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

- 1) Cash
- 2) US Government Securities
- 3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
- 4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
- 5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is Two Hundred Seventy (270) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be greater of (i) Two Hundred dollars (\$200.00) per day, or (ii) two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by One Hundred Fifty (150) calendar days, the contract time and will be accessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Joey Patrick San Nicolas
Tinian Mayor

Herman S. Sablan
Director, CNMI Procurement & Supply

JKPL caps off summer reading program

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library capped its "Build a Better World" on June 30, 2017, with the 11th Annual Collaborative Summer Library Program.

A total of 141 children ages 6 years old to 12 years old participated in an intensive two-week-long session filled with reading, arts and craft activities, engineering and science activities, movie days, computer classes, guest presentations, field trips, and more.

Acting JKPL director Erlinda Cabrera Naputi, who shared the importance of literacy, said that because of the Collaborative Summer Library Program, "our children read over 1,500 books in a span of two weeks. Congratulations, children, families, guest presenters, sponsors, volunteers, and my hardworking JKPL team!"

Participating children received a certificate of completion, an eco-friendly book bag, school supplies, a water bottle, and a raffle draw in which each received a gift certificate from one of the following donors/sponsors: Regal cinema movie passes and gift certificates from Joeten Enterprises, I Love Saipan, Borderline, Herman's Modern Bakery, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, Saipan Sea Ventures, Lao Lao Bay Golf & Resort, Pacific Islands Club, and Joeten Ace Hardware.

Naputi pointed out that the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library

is the CNMI state library information hub, preserving CNMI's cultural heritage and connecting people, libraries and government to the resources and tools they need to succeed and to build a strong community.

Participants with the "Most Books Read" award were given a magic kit provided by the Friends of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library.

The top readers are: Kevin Bhujel (Session 1A), Julius

Torres (Session 1B), Jose Iguel (Session 2A), and Dereck Rangamar (Session 2B).

A grand prize sponsored by Lollipops for the "Overall Top Reader" was awarded to Kevin in Bhujel, who read 50 books in two weeks.

Following the award ceremony, a lively outdoors celebratory carnival was organized in collaboration with Imperial Pacific International Ltd.

Breakfast and lunch were provided by the CNMI Pub-

lic School System's Food and Nutrition Service from vendor LSG Sky Chefs. The Friends of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library donated a celebratory cake for dessert.

An assortment of carnival games were conducted for the children: face painting, IPI's Arts Café where children painted original drawings on canvas and kept them for souvenirs, basketball hoop tournaments, and many more.

The Children's Summer Reading Program at the

Joeten-Kiyu Public Library was extended to independent reading activities this July and August.

"If you were unable to attend the CSLP Summer Program in June, you can participate in independent reading activities at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library. Participants are required to have a JKPL library card with no pending fees or fines, and fill out a reading log. Children who read 10 books will qualify to enter in a raffle drawing

for a chance to win even more prizes."

Joeten Superstore has donated a Schwinn Roadster Trike, one of the grand prizes, which will be raffled off at the end of the summer for Joeten-Kiyu Public Library Summer Reading Challenge!

Other prizes to be raffled off include Regal Cinema movie passes, National Office Supply gift certificates, Bestseller gift certificates, Joeten gift certificates and more! (*Saipan Tribune*)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A total of 141 children ages 6 years old to 12 years old participated in an intensive two-week-long session filled with reading, arts and craft activities, engineering and science activities, movie days, computer classes, guest presentations, field trips, and more.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Acting Joeten-Kiyu Public Library director Erlinda Naputi delivers opening remarks at the completion ceremony at the 11th Annual Collaborative Summer Library Program.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Reading rangers of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A team from Imperial Pacific International Ltd. helps children with a basketball activity.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Imperial Pacific International Ltd.'s Arts Café enabled children to paint original drawings on canvas and kept them for souvenirs.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Participants of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's 11th Annual Collaborative Summer Library Program show off maps of marine protected areas in the CNMI from the CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife.

Participants of the 11th Annual Collaborative Summer Library Program have their picture taken at the American Memorial Park.

Young Professionals Week ends with July 22 gala

Young Professionals Week kicked off last June 26 with a proclamation signing at the Bridge Capital office. It will end with the White Beach Gala at the Surf Club on July 22.

The gala, which also marks the second anniversary of the group, was rescheduled to July 22 due to weather concerns. Tickets can be purchased from any Events Committee members. Tickets previously bought are still honored for the new date.

For more information, check out MYPros Facebook page at [facebook.com/mypros670/](https://www.facebook.com/mypros670/).

MYPros director Frank "The Crank" Camacho read the proclamation at the June 26 kickoff, with Senate President Arnold Palacios, at the time the acting governor, signing the proclamation in place of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres.

The Young Professionals Week was an educational, social and fundraising opportunity for CNMI young professionals to grow their businesses as well as create lasting contacts while learning solutions to the challenges that face the youth of the CNMI.

The week featured activi-

ties and events such as the Personal Finance Mixer at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, Bank of Guam Small Business Seminar, Small Business Happy Hour Mixer at Bubba Gump Shrimp, and the MYPros Dunking Booth fundraiser at this year's Liberation Day celebration.

MYPros fundraising chair Ciara Ada thought the Personal Finance Mixer was one of the most helpful events of the week.

"Despite what we learn in school, there is always a practicality to personal finance that is difficult to learn on your

own. This was a very helpful discussion," Ada said.

The mixer also covered, managing student loan debt, maintaining a healthy credit score, setting financial goals, budgeting, and financial risk protection.

Marianas Young Professionals president Matt Deleon Gurerro participated in the panel discussion at the Bank of Guam Small Business Seminar.

"It's great to see how many people are interested in open-

ing small businesses. Not only that, it's inspiring to see those that already have small businesses wanting to contribute to and grow the conversation.

Small businesses are the backbone of economic success and only add to our community," he said.

The Dunking Booth fundraiser event saw MYPros members Ignacio Ada and Benjamin Petersburg volunteering their services, along with MYPros director Frannie Demapan who was

a crowd favorite, with the Chinese Taipei Little League team keeping her in the water tank most of the night.

"A big thank you to the hardworking people at the [Saipan] Mayor's Office as well as the Liberation Committee for their support. We had a blast and we were able to raise funds for future events and seminars to further our young professional community," said MYPros vice president Nola Hix. *(Saipan Tribune)*

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

CCA support meeting this Thursday

All people facing cancer, their family members, and caregivers are invited to the Commonwealth Cancer Association support meeting tomorrow, July 13, starting at 5:30pm at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Chamolinian Room. To RSVP or for more information, call the CCA at 682-0050 or email at ccamarianas@gmail.com or cca@ccamarianas.org. *(PR)*

Youth fishing derby on Rota on July 23

The Rota Mayor's Office will be hosting a youth fishing derby at the Teteto Beach on Sunday, July 23, from 9am to 4pm. Interested participants must fill out application forms at the Rota Mayor's Office. Participants must be ages 5 to 8 and 9 to 12. There will be an orientation at the Teteto Pavilion on Sunday, July 23, at 8:30am. Cash prizes will be given to the participant who collects the most number of fish. Prizes are \$75 for first place, \$50 for second place, and \$25 for third place. *(MVA)*

VA social worker to visit Saipan

Tiare Peterkin, a licensed clinical social worker and suicide prevention coordinator with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Pacific Islands Health Care Systems, is on Saipan until today, July 12, to conduct outreach among veterans here and train providers on the VA's services and resources for veterans in crisis. *(PR)*

Ongoing gambling survey

The Substance Abuse & Rehabilitation Program is conducting a "Gambling Survey" to gather baseline data in order to help determine if a further comprehensive screening tool or assessment is needed in regards to gambling in the CNMI. An online version of the survey can be taken at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FDKXYNH>. The last day to complete the online survey is this Saturday, July 15, 2017. The community is highly encouraged to take the survey. For more information, contact Shawnalei Oguromo of the SAR Program at (670) 323-7277 or email at shawnalei.oguromo@gov.mp. *(PR)*

PH consular outreach on Saipan

A team from the Philippine Consulate General in Agana, Guam, is on Saipan until July 13 at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe for biometrics capturing of e-passport applications. All e-passport applications require "personal appearance." Wear proper attire (shirt with collar). For more information and confirmation, call (670) 233-6293 and ask for Mel Santos. To verify if you are on the list, go to <https://www.facebook.com/PCGAgana/>. *(PR)*

WSR now accepting registrations

William S. Reyes Elementary School is now

accepting registration for new and returning students for school year 2017-2018. Parents and guardians will need the following documents: updated health certificate, updated student insurance/Medicaid, birth certificate (new students), legal guardianship documents (if applicable/must be issued by a U.S. court system; affidavit and power of attorney do not apply). If legal guardianship documents were issued by a foreign court system, all documents must be translated and certified through a U.S. court system. Visit the school to register. Contact the school at 664-3972 or 237-3542. *(PR)*

GMS registration

Green Meadow School is now accepting registration for new and returning students for first to eighth grade for school year 2017-2018. Visit the GMS business office in Chalan Kiya or Gualo Rai and pick up the registration form. We are also opening registration for first grade at the Gualo Rai branch. For inquiries call 235-2185, 233-6452 or 483-6452. *(PR)*

OES now accepting registrations

Oleai Elementary School is now accepting registration for new and returning students for school year 2017-2018. Parents and guardians of returning students are also asked to update registration and all supporting documents. Registration forms are available at our main office. For more information or inquiry, call our main office at 664-3942. *(PR)*

MHS registration ongoing

Registration for new incoming and returning students for Marianas High School is ongoing until July 31, 2017. Copies of all required documents must be attached before your child can be registered. Call 664-3800/01 or visit www.marianashighschool.com for more information. *(PR)*

SSHS registration

Saipan Southern High School is now accepting registration for new and returning students for school year 2017-2018. Come to our main office and pick up registration forms. All requirements must be turned in. Call 664-4000/2 for any other information. *(PR)*

KHS registration

Kagman High School is accepting registrations all summer. It is ideal to get your registration submitted ASAP to get your child scheduled in the optimum classes they need to graduate! So far we have received less than 150 registrations from returning students. We have also received very few registration forms from incoming freshmen! Please don't delay, register your child for school today. Registration can be printed from <https://goo.gl/x2KvcL>. *(PR)*



CONSULAR OUTREACH

Volunteers from the United Filipino Workers organization and others assist with the registration process during the Philippine Consulate General's outreach program at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

KIMBERLY BAUTISTA



The Philippine Consulate General's outreach program offered a biometric station for applicants who are renewing and applying for a Philippine passport.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA



The Philippine Consulate General's outreach program offered a biometric station for applicants who are renewing and applying for a Philippine passport.

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Opinion

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EDITORIAL

In Mosul, Islamic State's defeat. But will it stick?

After nearly nine months of street-by-street fighting and the deaths of thousands of civilians, Iraq's second largest city, Mosul, has been liberated from the grasp of the Islamic State. The victory wrests from the world's most feared militant group any hope of an Islamic caliphate in the heart of the Middle East. And it delivers a crushing setback to an organization bent on killing American and European civilians wherever they can be found.

Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi's government deserves a degree of praise for this pivotal moment. After sweeping into Mosul in 2014, Islamic State went on to seize much of northern Iraq, governing with a rank brutality that entailed public beheadings and the use of women as sex slaves. Iraq's armed forces regrouped and, town by town, began retaking territory. The 252-day fight to retake Mosul was, as Lt. Gen. Stephen Townsend, the top U.S.-led coalition commander, put it, "the most significant urban combat to take place since World War II."

The triumph is a moment to savor. But it also presents Baghdad with a new challenge: ensuring Islamic State doesn't mount a comeback.

Fighting will continue in a few smaller cities and towns still held by Islamic State, but Iraqi forces have them surrounded, and they likely will fall in a matter of months. As before, Iraqi forces will get a vital helping hand from U.S.-led coalition air strikes, training and intelligence. But keeping Islamic State from re-emerging as an existential threat in Iraq shouldn't — and won't — fall on the shoulders of the U.S. Ultimately, it will be up to the Iraqi government and Iraqis.

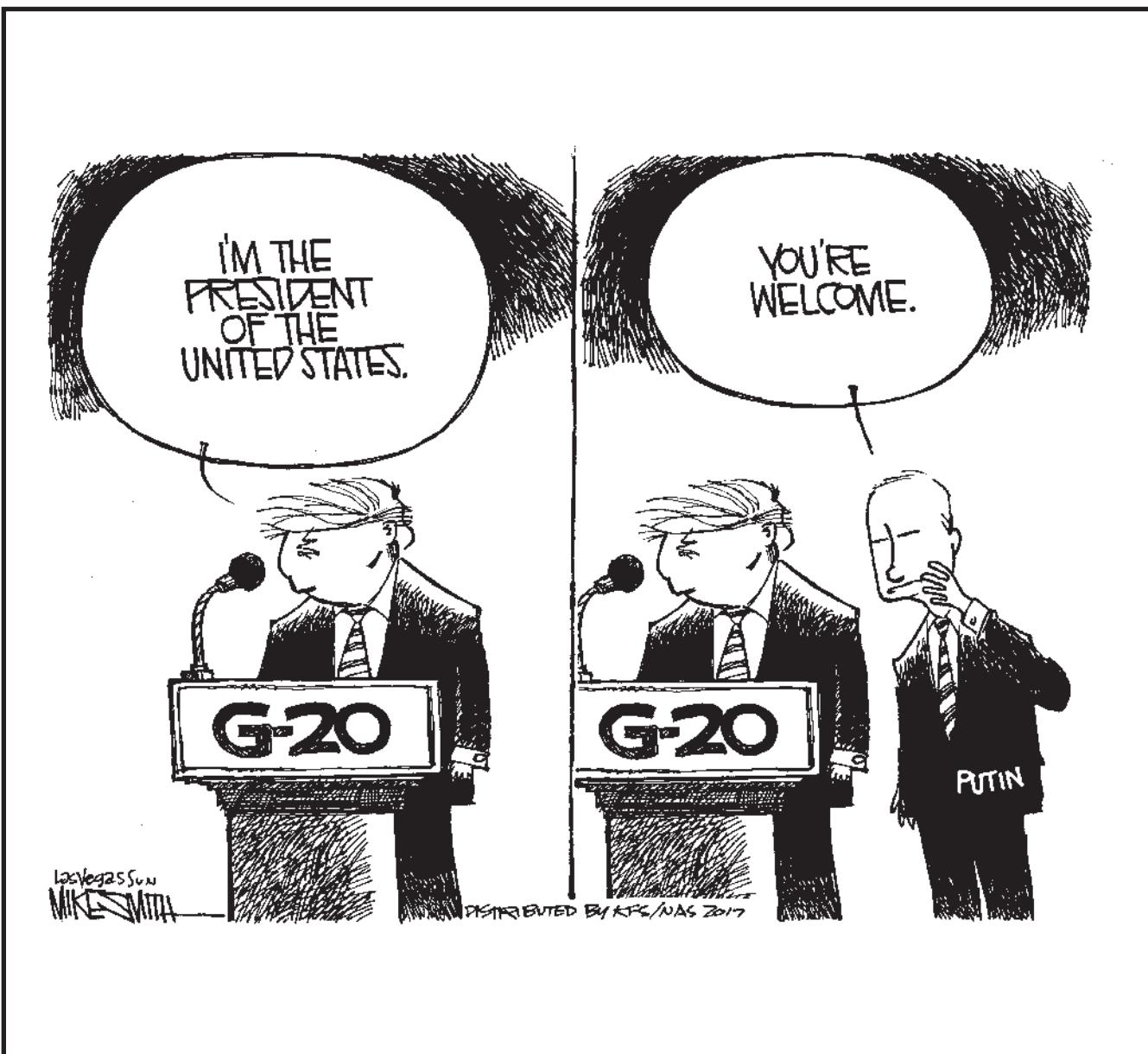
We hope Baghdad's Shiite-led government learned something from Mosul's fall in 2014. The city, as well as other parts of northern Iraq, is home to large numbers of Sunni Muslims, a minority in Iraq that historically has been marginalized by the country's Shiite leadership. Islamic State militants are Sunni Muslims, and when they rolled in, Iraqi Sunnis either welcomed the militants or didn't resist. If Abadi doesn't want to see the Islamic State's resurrection, he needs to convince Iraq's Sunnis that they have a place in Iraqi society.

Leaders in Baghdad have talked of moving toward decentralization that shares the country's oil wealth equitably among the provinces. Iraqis would also get more authority to set up their own security at the provincial level. That means, for example, Sunni-dominant areas would get a fair share of the country's resources, and would not have to rely on Shiite forces for security. The idea has merit, but so far, Abadi's talk of reconciliation with Sunnis has been just that — talk.

Abadi will also have to rebuild much of Mosul. In the city's western half, which bore the brunt of the fighting, 15 neighborhoods suffered heavy damage and another 23 experienced moderate damage, according to the United Nations. An estimated 897,000 people have been displaced, and Mosul's overall reconstruction tab is expected to reach \$700 million.

The U.S. and its allies can help with reconstruction and the

See MOSUL on Next Page



George Washington vs Donald Trump

Americans are fond of rankings. We even rank our presidents. An internet search reveals dozens of presidential rankings by historians and news organizations. The details vary, but in general they confirm what we probably expect: great presidents such as George Washington, Abraham Lincoln and Thomas Jefferson are always near the top; the not-so-great such as Andrew Johnson, James Buchanan and Warren G. Harding are always near the bottom.

It may seem unfair to hold our president of a half-year, Donald Trump, up against the mirror of our previous 44, but eventually we will place him somewhere on the list. And Trump himself hasn't been shy about comparing himself to previous presidents, even to some of our most prominent.

During a cabinet meeting on June 12, for example, Trump said: "Never has there been a president, with few exceptions — case of FDR, he had a major depression to handle — who has passed more legislation and who has done more things than what we've done." (This isn't true, by the way.)

And on Feb. 18, Trump situated himself in the good company of Jefferson, Lincoln and "many of our greatest presidents," who, like himself, he says, clashed with the media and called them out as liars.

So I don't think that Trump will shy away from comparisons with presidents of the past. Let's consider one of the greatest:

Last week's July 4th celebration happened to coincide with my reading of Ron Chernow's "Washington: A Life," prompting this only-semi-facetious question: Why can't our current president, Trump, be more like our first, Washington?

Washington had his faults, but he was an impressive man, essential to the American Revolution and the founding of our nation. Nevertheless, as he faced the formidable tasks of winning the war and creating a new government, he expressed a surprising amount of self-doubt and uncertainty about his ability to live up to the challenges.

When Washington was given command of the Continental Army, for example, he offered this self-effacing disclaimer: "... I beg it may be remember(ed) by every Gent(lemen) in the room that I this day declare, with the utmost sincerity, I do not think myself equal to the command I (am) honoured with."

When Washington became our nation's first president, he said:

By JOHN M. CRISP
Tribune News Service

John M. Crisp, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service, teaches in the English Department at Del Mar College in Corpus Christi, Texas. Readers may send him email at jcrist@delmar.edu.



"While I realize the arduous nature of the task which is conferred on me and feel my inability to perform it, I wish there may not be reason for regretting the choice."

While there may be more to these expressions of modesty than meets the eye, there's little reason to believe that they aren't basically sincere. But they're in jolting contrast to the attitude of the current occupant of the White House, who said, at the Republican national convention, "I alone can fix it."

Here's another striking distinction: Washington wasn't very good with money. Like many Virginia planters, he was land-rich and cash-poor. His extravagant tastes kept him in financial trouble his whole life. Yet when he became commander-in-chief of the army he renounced the \$500 per month salary.

Further, when Washington became the nation's first president, he tried to decline the sorely needed \$25,000 per year salary — Congress insisted that he accept it.

Trump's finances are obscured by his refusal to release his tax returns. But a June financial disclosure indicates that Trump's Washington hotel pulled in \$20 million during its first few months of operation and that his Mar-a-Lago resort has made millions more than it had previously. It appears that the presidency is going to be very good for the Trump brand.

Although few of our presidents can withstand comparison with our greatest, thinking about Trump in terms of Washington is worthwhile. At this stage in his life, Trump is unlikely to develop the humility and self-sacrifice of our first president, nor to experience the kind of uncertainty and doubt that precedes wisdom. Still, as we evaluate our current president, the fact that he is unlikely to change shouldn't keep us from remembering what true presidential greatness looks like.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published.

The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Gi Chagchag Oga'an

Gi chagchag oga'an, i burukan primet ruplanu ni du miñgu Saipan uma'afagcha` yan fagmataghu. Hu tutuhun gi tinayuyot dispues `nai hu preparayu` para i finattun ha'ane. Sigeu` pa'gu manaitai gasetan globus yan tano`ta gi Internet.

Pa`gu na oga'an hu dadandan Ti Gi Un` Palasyun I Riku ni tinige defuntu Tun Jose Pangelinan. Sige hu tatiye i palabra pot mensahen hinimidi gi halum riku na petlas siha. Ahe` ti manrikun guinaha hit soluke este siha na islas `nai gaige ginefsaga-ta.

Umafagcha` i taduñg mensahe yan dopbladan bonitun sunidu. Solu kanta ni siña pumañgun sensian tautau isla punta pot punta. Mauleg ta offisiona kumanta este gi todou okasion guine. I palabra kumone` hau para in` ali`e yan hagu mismu—misa--`nai un` tutuhun rumepara appottunidat ginen halum huyuñg.

Dispues, desde antigua na tiempu i natibu hagas gai dignu gi modun linala`ña. Todu nasion ni humatme Marianas chumage kumefunas kutturan tanu'. Ni unu felis sa` maseha ñañgon lau ti man-seha mañaina-ta pumetsige haf` gaige giya hita kumu natibu. Estague` `nai tali`e i dignu na sustansian natibu!

Soluke ta bira hit halum giya hita mismu `nai siempre ta tutuhun lumi`e sustansian natibu yan direchota gi todou disposision ni debi u fatti ginen i tautau.

Areglu: Guaha `nos kuantos manhoben ni mafa` offisiu destrosion propiadat bisinu yan publiku. Hu kone` unu ya hu konketsiasune.

Yangin ti maguaguat (discipline) i kilisyanu pues lastima para hinanauña. Siempre u lotgun gi che`chu` lache estake mapega gi tribunat.

Gi konketsasion mame, ni unu gi dos sainaña gaige ya sumasa ga gi un` tiaña. Gaige sumasaga gi halum mafanana`an "broken home". Ni areglu taya` gi halum guma`. Humahanau gi ka prechoña diariu.

Hu adiñgane i prohimum pot estudiun ya listuyu` umayudague` yangin haf` ha nesesita gi estudiun. Puede umekuñgog pot presisu na u ayudan maisague` desde pa`gu.

Inadahe: Dos klasen amot machalapon gi halum komunitatta tat kumu shabu yan mafanana`an opioid. I tatatte amot puti ni solu i mediku siña sumedi.

Mauleg in` tiñgu` lokue` na yangin inipus mania`ña i malangu siña dimalas. Masoda` na problema este gi un` patte giya America gi halum man-malañgu `nai lamegai man-pininu`.

I shabu kontra tailaye lokue` pot gi halum famaguon-ta. Yangin kineni` i umu`usa este na binenu solu umali`e yan konsiheru ti CHC

pot ayudu `nai kase gai chansa sumotta bisiun usun este na binenu. Para minauleg i umu`usa famaisen ayudu antes de u atrasau.

Chenot: `Nai fresku hinassota sige ta asimula pinadesin i tanu` pot chinatsaga. Sige ta frichis dispreessiu gi man-matatachoñg na offisiat siha na debi u guaha sattun na tinilaika.

`Nai man-matcha hit para i sagan botasion ta repite muna` fan halum tatte i mismu tropa. Ta dopbla mañgas finu` binibu pot taya` adelantu gi linala`ta. Sige kontinua dumespressia i los prohimum lau hita pumega siha guihe na puestu. Atan fan i siñku na kalulot-mu kuantu tumatanchu` tatte giya hagu mismu?

Na` Bali: Yangin un` li`e klaru na taya` bidan i mansabiu umadelanta ha`animu pues ennau na asuntu gaige giya hagu.

Debi un` katga ennau na sentimento guatu gi lugat botasion ya un` tulaika kosake u guaha kampu gi lehitimu na akomparasion. Ti bali tafan e`esalau ya sige gi mismu tiempu ta repite mismu linache ginen hita.

Muñga man-ma`añau lumotge kuestion i man-gaige pa`gu gi puestu. Debi u guaha kabales na esplikasion haf` taya` adelantu gi fuetsan monedan familia. Estague` na puntu `nai un` li`e kau makomprende obligasion niha.

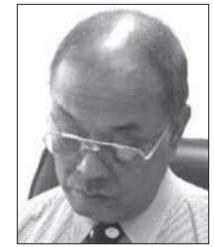
Amiguhu: Apmam de humame yan un` amiguhu gi halum niñetin lina`la` Fietmiente hu tatiye pot huli`e na mauleg na sensian tautau.

Un` dia gumaige chinatsaga ni didog. Esta hagas hu chagua-

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the *Saipan Tribune*

*John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the *Saipan Tribune* and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the *Saipan Tribune*.*



yu` gi fihoña pot guaha lini`e-hu ti kombeni. Hu sesiente ha`ginen espiritu mame mañgoñgpbla kau magpu` amestan mame.

Hu oppi silensi na ti listuyu` sumentensia maseha haye na kilisyanu sa` gi uttimu basisi guiya para u fanna` e kuenta gi haf bidaña. Lastima ayu na karera ya esta pa`gu mapot hu comprende manu `nai lotgun i prohimum.

Idat Tufai: Humanau-yu` para bai kone` cheluhu gi hospitat. `Nai halí`e na mamamaila`yu`, tumohge ya hana` salamañka siyan reda (wheelchair). Ai na chaleg i lumi`e haf bidaña.

Mauleg na ayudu i siyan reda piot `nai makat ha katgan maise hit i hagas mahegat na sensin adeñgta. Pa`gu `nai mas-yu` tu-fai mafattu gi hinasoghu ayu na siyan reda. Lau taya` planuhu muna` salamañka!

MITCH MCCONNELL'S SUMMER BREAK

BY JOE "GIVE ME A BREAK" FOURNIER



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We don't have commercial fishing on Saipan

This is the third in a series of letters about the Trump administration efforts to overturn marine monuments in the Pacific, particularly the Mariana Trench Marine National Monument. In this letter I will address commercial fishing.

The monument prohibits commercial fishing in the Islands Unit, the area of federal waters around the islands of Asuncion, Maug, and Uracus. There is some fishing allowed in the monument, namely sustenance, recreational, and traditional indigenous fishing. The Friends of the Mariana Trench asked for this cultural fishing in our vision statement, which we published in this newspaper in October 2008 and posted online on numerous blogs.

In many Pacific Islands countries, commercial fishing plays an important part in the economy. Some countries rely on this activity for most of their government revenue. The Northern Mariana Islands, however, does not have any commercial fishing. Zero. We do not have any long liners or purse seiners, and

Thank you

It was such a privilege to ride in this year's Liberation Day parade with *Man'amko* King Jesus Basa Pangelinan. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all individuals and companies who supported the fundraising of the 2017 *Man'amko* Royal Court. The generosity of those who bought raffle tickets is very touching, and altogether, the community support we received raised over \$7,000 for the Saipan Senior Advisory Council.

Many people may not know that the services of the CNMI Office of Aging are not all paid for by the federal government. While many of our programs for the *man'amko* are, some of our activities are supported by local funding or the Saipan

we do not export any of our fish to other countries.

We do have a very active artisanal fishery that services our local markets, but the size and scale of this fishery is tiny compared to what exists in other places, including Hawaii and the Marshall Islands. And most of that fishery is centered around Saipan, not the far northern islands.

So why is there no commercial fishing on Saipan? It's not for a lack of trying. There have been several attempts to start commercial fishing here, often heavily subsidized by the federal government. The outcome of the most recent attempt sits out in the middle of the Saipan lagoon, lying on its side since Typhoon Soudelor.

There are a number of reasons that commercial fishing has not taken off here. One is that we don't have the high value fish in our waters that the Japanese are willing to spend hundreds and thousands of dollars on. Our fuel prices are also higher than in

many other places. A third thing is our immigration laws. The longline fishery in Honolulu only exists because they bend U.S. immigration laws to allow slave-like labor on their boats. This situation was exposed last year in a report from the Associated Press and caused a lot of controversy for Hawaii and damaged their reputation. We don't need that on our islands. We already have enough problems as it is.

So just to recap, the monument prohibits commercial fishing only, but there is no commercial fishing in the Northern Mariana Islands. Therefore, while some of the economic benefits promised by White House Council on Environmental Quality chair James Connaughton and the Bush administration have not come to fruition yet, neither has there been any loss of economic activity because we do not have a fishing industry.

Ignacio V. Cabrera
I Agag, Saipan

MOSUL

From Page 10

return of refugees. They can also help Baghdad restore stability and security to its war-torn regions. But when it comes to creating a climate of inclusion that immunizes Iraq from Islamic State 2.0, that responsibility falls on Baghdad's shoulders. For Iraq's sake, and for the sake of every nation seen by Islamic State as a target, Baghdad needs to assume that responsibility with the same resolve it used to retake Mosul.

(c)2017 Chicago Tribune

Senior Advisory Council, which is comprised of *man'amko*, with officers voted by the *man'amko*. Each year we receive many generous monetary or in-kind contributions/donations from our community for services, and we thank you. Most especially, we thank all those who take the time to visit us at the Office on Aging to see what services are available to our *man'amko*.

Again, thank you, and God bless you all!

Rafaela Odoshi Perry
2017 *Man'amko* Queen

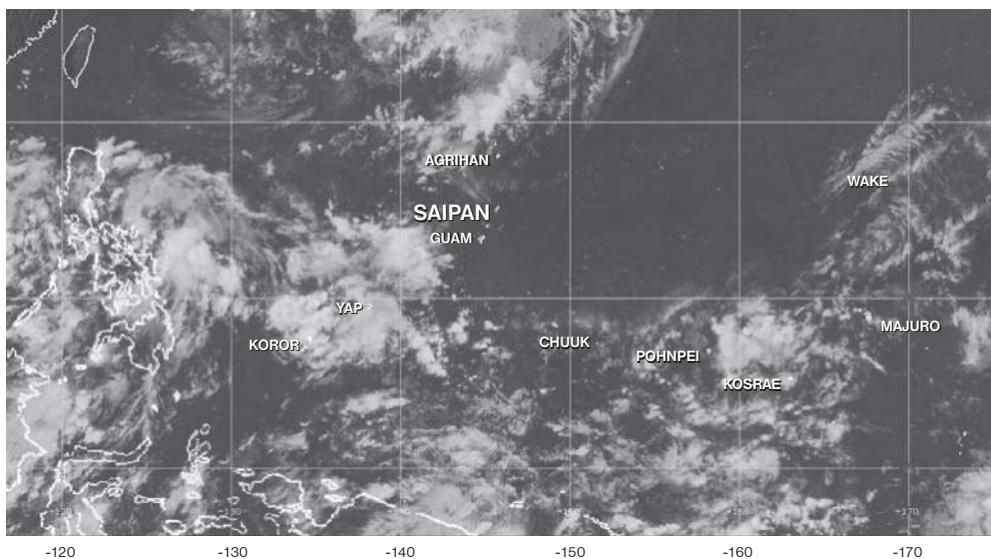
The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy. Isolated showers. East winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.			

▲ 88°	▼ 78°	▲ 88°	▼ 78°	▲ 88°	▼ 78°
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YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 4:30 AM, TUESDAY, JULY 11, 2017

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Very little change in the forecast. A few showers are visible across the islands this morning, mainly over Tinian and Saipan. IR satellite shows occasional colder tops over the area, though no lightning has been observed out of these cells so far. Due to the proximity of the TUTT just to the north over the northern CNMI, decided to add a slight chance of thunderstorms to the forecast for today. Occasional mostly cloudy conditions are also possible through the morning over Tinian and Saipan, but overall should remain partly cloudy. Time-height products are showing fairly dry low levels through the week, with occasional spikes in mid-level moisture and instability. Chose to maintain partly cloudy skies with isolated showers through the weekend, since there is no evidence of any organized patterns moving in to the region.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲	▼	°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	87°	/	79°
Palau	Thunderstorms	84°	/	76°
Yap	Thunderstorms	85°	/	78°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	87°	/	78°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86°	/	77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86°	/	77°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	84°	/	80°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲	▼	°F
Auckland	Windy	55°	/	46°
Beijing	Thunderstorms	99°	/	79°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	88°	/	81°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	86°	/	76°
London	Partly Cloudy	72°	/	55°
Los Angeles	Sunny	84°	/	66°
Manila	Thunderstorms	90°	/	79°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	55°	/	46°
Miami	Mostly Sunny	87°	/	80°
New York	Thunderstorms	88°	/	75°
Osaka	Thunderstorms	88°	/	77°
Paris	Showers	72°	/	55°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	86°	/	75°
Rome	Sunny	93°	/	72°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	92°	/	74°
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	63°	/	54°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	90°	/	73°
Tokyo	Showers	84°	/	75°
Washington, DC	Thunderstorms	96°	/	79°



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
 ■ Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
 ■ *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
 ■ Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET		
4:01 AM	LOW TIDE	1.11
8:43 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.78
3:57 PM	LOW TIDE	-0.18
10:50 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.92

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:53 AM	6:51 PM
Thursday	5:53 AM	6:51 PM
Friday	5:54 AM	6:51 PM
Saturday	5:54 AM	6:51 PM
Sunday	5:54 AM	6:51 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	8:13 AM	9:08 PM
Thursday	-	9:04 AM	9:51 PM
Friday	-	9:56 AM	10:33 PM
Saturday	-	10:48 AM	11:16 PM
Sunday	-	11:41 AM	11:59 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 6, 2017

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA6394 4:15am 5:05am Daily				UA6393 2:45am 3:35am Daily			
UA6392 8:40am 9:30am Daily				UA6395 7:15am 8:05am Daily			
UA6391 1:30pm 3:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota				UA6391 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7			
UA6390 2:20pm 3:10pm 2, 3, 6				UA6390 12:10pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6 via Rota			
UA6398 6:05pm 6:55pm Daily				UA6397 4:45pm 5:35pm Daily			
UA6396 9:50pm 10:40pm Daily				UA6399 8:30pm 9:20pm Daily			
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)				GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA6391 1:30pm 2:05pm 1, 4, 5, 7				UA6390 12:10pm 12:45pm 2, 3, 6			
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)				ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA6391 2:35pm 3:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7				UA6390 1:15pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6			
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308 1:35am 5:20am 2, 3, 4				7C3402 9:30am 3:00pm Daily			
OZ626 2:20am 6:00am 1				ZE581 10:10am 3:55pm Daily			
TW308 2:35am 6:20am 6, 7				TW307 7:05pm 12:35am+1 1, 2, 3			
OZ626 2:50am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7				OZ625 7:40pm 1:10am+1 7			
7C3403 4:45am 8:30am Daily				TW307 8:05pm 1:35am+1 5, 6			
UJ652 4:45am 8:35am 1, 4, 5, 7				OZ625 8:15pm 1:45am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6			
7C3401 4:00pm 7:45pm Daily				7C3404 10:10pm 3:40am+1 Daily			
ZE582 4:45pm 8:35pm Daily							

Business

Docomo Pacific launches 4G LTE network in Marianas



Docomo Pacific officials and dignitaries led by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres pose for a picture after the launch of the new Docomo Pacific office in Gualo Rai on July 3.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, right, and Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, second from right, are joined by Docomo Pacific officials at the relaunch of the Docomo Pacific office in Gualo Rai on July 3.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Docomo Pacific said yesterday that the widest 4G LTE network is now live on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

In a press statement yesterday, Docomo Pacific said it has added 29 new cell sites throughout the CNMI.

Docomo Pacific customers can now experience fast and consistent 4G LTE coverage across the islands with no additional roaming charges throughout Guam, Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, the statement added.

It said Docomo Pacific's 4G LTE launch "allows customers to instantly update their Facebook stream, zip through YouTube videos, effortlessly send pictures through WhatsApp, or stream the latest movies on



Docomo Pacific's relaunched Gualo Rai store boasts an expanded space.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Netflix. As we continue to expand our coverage throughout the Marianas, Docomo Pacific is committed to connecting customers where they live, work, and play.

"With 4G LTE, Docomo Pacific customers can now experience the full capability of the latest applications on the islands' largest selection of mobile devices and acces-

sories available at any of Docomo Pacific store locations."

Docomo Pacific officially announced its 4G LTE network at the reopening of its Gualo Rai store on July 3. Boasting an expanded footprint with nearly 2,000 square feet of retail space, Docomo Pacific's new store features more interactive displays, a prepaid card vending machine, a rapid charging station, and much more. Docomo Pacific customers can enjoy our Top 10 display, which offers a hands-on experience with the industry's most advanced

mobile devices, more customer service bays, and a Red Room that features everything you need to connect your home, with interactive displays for TV, online, and mobile services.

Beginning in August, Docomo Pacific's services in television, mobile, online, and home telephone will be available across the Marianas. Docomo Pacific customers will experience the Marianas' first triple-digit online speeds up to 100 Mbps, watch high-definition channels, and enjoy TiVo—an all

new, award-winning television entertainment system. Later this year, Docomo Pacific will also open stores on Tinian and Rota to better serve our customers in the Marianas.

"The launch of our 4G LTE network offers choice across the Marianas more than ever before. No longer will the people of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota feel isolated or behind when it comes to connecting to family, friends, and the rest of the world," said Dino Manning, vice president and general manager, Docomo Pacific CNMI. *(Saipan Tribune)*

Man dies when air bag inflator ruptures during car repair

DETROIT (AP)—Another person has been killed in the U.S. by an exploding Takata air bag inflator, but this death wasn't the result of a crash.

Ramon V. Kuffo, 81, of Hialeah, Florida, was working inside a 2001 Honda Accord using a hammer when the air bag inflator ruptured, on June 18, 2016. A medical examiner ruled his death accidental due to head trauma, according to a Hialeah police report.

It's the 12th U.S. death attributed to the faulty inflators and 17th worldwide, including five in Malaysia. Takata inflators can explode with too much force when exposed to prolonged airborne moisture and hot-and-cold temperature cycles. If that happens, the inflators can blow apart a metal canister and shoot out shrapnel which can kill or injure people. More than 180 people have been hurt in the U.S. alone.

The problem touched off the largest automotive recall in U.S. history involving up

to 69 million inflators and 42 million vehicles. Honda was Takata's biggest customer before the problems surfaced. Last month Takata filed for bankruptcy protection in both Japan and the U.S. and most of its assets were bought by rival Key Safety Systems.

According to police, Kuffo was in the back yard of his home near Miami, working on a silver 2001 Honda Accord, when a neighbor heard a loud bang. The neighbor went outside and found Kuffo sitting in the passenger seat of the car unconscious and bleeding from his face. Kuffo was taken to a trauma center, where he died the next day. Both air bags had inflated.

Honda released some details of the death on Monday and said it only recently found out about it. The company has not been able to inspect the car and is relying on police photos to make its determination, Honda spokes-

man Chris Martin said.

The victim, who police said was not the car's owner, was working on the interior of the car with a hammer and had taken apart the car's center console, but it wasn't clear what he was trying to fix. It's also not clear why the air bag deployed, but police photos show the metal driver's side inflator ruptured and shot out fragments, Honda said. The car's ignition switch was on, so the air bag would have been ready in case of a crash, according to Honda. Martin noted that there is a deceleration sensor that activates the air bags mounted on the wall between the engine and passenger compartment.

"The rupture most likely contributed to his death," Martin said.

The 2001 Accord has one of the most dangerous types of Takata driver's side air bag inflators. Laboratory tests show they have as high as a 50 percent chance of blowing apart in a crash.

Survey: US uninsured up by 2M this year as gains erode

WASHINGTON (AP)—The number of U.S. adults without health insurance has grown by some 2 million this year, according to a major new survey that finds recent coverage gains beginning to erode.

The new numbers highlight what's at stake as Congress returns to an unresolved debate over Republican proposals to roll back much of former President Barack Obama's health care law.

The Gallup-Sharecare Well-Being Index, published Monday, found that the uninsured rate among U.S. adults was 11.7 percent in the second three months of this year, compared with a record low of 10.9 percent at the end of last year. Though small, the change was statistically significant, survey analysts noted.

While "Obamacare" has remained politically divisive, it had helped drive the unin-

sured rate to historic lows as some 20 million people gained coverage.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., plans to check vital signs on his GOP bill as senators trickle back to Washington from a July 4 break that many spent listening to constituents vent about health care.

McConnell is seen as a master legislative strategist, but there's no sign he's secured enough votes to pass a bill. He can only afford to lose two out of 52 Republican senators.

The Congressional Budget Office has estimated that at least 22 million more people would become uninsured under Republican legislation.

McConnell has been considering easing some of the bill's Medicaid cuts, beefing up health care tax credits to help people buy private insurance and adding billions of

dollars to counter the opioid epidemic. That might comfort GOP moderates. To placate conservatives, McConnell is weighing demands to make it easier for insurers to offer skimpier policies.

He's also admonished fellow Republicans that they may find themselves negotiating with Democratic leader Sen. Chuck Schumer of New York if they don't close ranks. In that case, McConnell said he'd aim for a limited package propping up troubled insurance markets around the country.

The Gallup-Sharecare survey serves as a kind of early indicator, publishing several months before the nimblest government surveys. The most recent government report found that progress reducing the number of uninsured stalled in 2016, after five consecutive years of coverage gains under Obama.

Nation

FBI: US soldier pledged allegiance to Islamic State group

HONOLULU (AP)—An active duty soldier based in Hawaii pledged his allegiance to the Islamic State group, helped purchase a drone for it to use against American forces and said he wanted to use his rifle to “kill a bunch of people,” according to an FBI affidavit.

Ikaika Kang, a sergeant first class in the U.S. Army, made an initial appearance Monday in federal court in Honolulu. He was arrested Saturday on terrorism charges.

Paul Delacourt, the FBI special agent in charge of the Hawaii bureau, said no documents made it to the Islamic State.

Birney Bervar, Kang’s appointed attorney, said after Kang’s initial court appears that he still doesn’t know much about the case. He said he only talked to Kang for a few minutes.

The 26-page affidavit from FBI Special Agent Jimmy Chen lays out details of the yearlong investigation into the 34-year-old soldier, who was a one-time martial arts fighter who thought he was dealing with Islamic State agents but were undercover agents or sources instead.

Among the charges was that Kang copied military secret documents in 2015 and



Red evidence tape covers part of the door leading to the condo where Ikaika Kang, a sergeant first class in the U.S. Army, lives in Waipahu, Hawaii, Monday, July 10, 2017. AP

wanted to provide them to the organization, according to the affidavit. It also Kang says admitted that he volun-

tarily pledged loyalty to Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi.

This occurred on Saturday

at a home in Honolulu, where he thought he was meeting an actual member of the organization, the affidavit says. They made combat training videos he believed would be taken back to the Middle East to help prepare the group’s sol-

diers to fight American forces, according to the affidavit.

Kang, who received extensive combat training, also helped purchase a drone that he believed would help Islamic State soldiers escape from American tanks, the affidavit says.

Hell and high water: Northern California is besieged again

OROVILLE, Calif. (AP)—With looming floods and roaring flames, Chuck Wilsey’s year sounds more like ancient scripture than modern living in Northern California.

Wilsey returned to his ranch home in Oroville on Monday, relieved to learn it had been spared by the wildfire, just as he had stayed clear of troubles brought on by a damaged spillway at a nearby dam five months ago.

“I don’t know what’s worse—fire, or water—it’s a toss-up,” Wilsey, 53, told The Associated Press after returning to his home on Monday afternoon.

He and his family were among the more than 5,000 people evacuated as flames raced through grassy foothills in the Sierra Nevada, about 60 miles (97 kilometers) north of Sacramento. Most of those evacuations remain in effect, though Wilsey and others have been allowed to return home.

The blaze burned nearly 9 square miles (23 square kilometers) of grass, injured four firefighters and destroyed at least 17 structures. It was 35 percent contained.

Crews were making progress against that fire and dozens of others across California, Colorado, Arizona and New Mexico, and into Canada.

Wilsey was far from celebratory, instead regrouping almost immediately and making new plans in case the fire makes another run at them. “I was ripping pictures off the wall trying to get ready,” Wilsey said.

He said he was leaving his trailer attached to his truck and telling his daughters to keep prized possessions they couldn’t take the first time close at hand.

The area burning is southeast of Oroville, near where 200,000 residents downstream from the 770-foot-high Oroville Dam were briefly evacuated in February when the structure’s spillways began crumbling. Wilsey’s home was far enough away that he didn’t have to evacuate from the floods.

His daughter, Krystle Chambers, who lives on the same property, said the one-two punch of floods and fires was taking its toll.

“It’s hard, it’s rough,” she said. “Way too many hits. First

it’s this side of town, then the other side of town. It almost makes you want to move.”

Pam Deditch, who is running the shelter where Wilsey and his family were huddled, also managed a shelter during the winter drenching.

“If it’s not one thing, it’s the other,” she said with a laugh. “We’re used to this. We’re resilient. We’re strong. We get fires and we get flooding.”

In Southern California, at least 3,500 people remained out of their homes as a pair of fires raged at different ends of Santa Barbara County. The larger of the two charred more than 45 square miles (116 square kilometers) of dry brush and threatened more than 130 rural homes. It was 15 percent contained.

The fires broke out amid a blistering weekend heat wave that toppled temperature records. Slightly cooler weather is expected to give crews a break in the coming days.

California officials said the extraordinarily wet winter caused thick spring blooms that are now dried out and burning, making for unpredictable fire behavior.

ACROSS THE NATION

Officer who killed Castile to be paid \$48,500 in buyout

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—The Minnesota police officer who was acquitted in last year’s fatal shooting of black motorist Philando Castile will receive \$48,500 as he leaves the suburban department that employed him at the time of the killing, according to a separation agreement announced Monday. Jeronimo Yanez will be paid the money in a lump sum, minus applicable deductions and withholdings for state and federal taxes. Under the five-page agreement released through a public records request, the Minneapolis suburb of St. Anthony also will pay Yanez for up to 600 hours of accrued and unused personal leave pay. The agreement, which has Monday’s date, doesn’t say how much time he has accrued. His annual salary at the time of the July 6, 2016, shooting was more than \$72,600, not including overtime pay, according to documents released by the city. Yanez shot Castile, a 32-year-old elementary school cafeteria worker, several times during a traffic stop after Castile told the officer he was armed.

The fires broke out amid a blistering weekend heat wave that toppled temperature records. Slightly cooler weather is expected to give crews a break in the coming days.

Military plane crash kills at least 16 in Mississippi

ITTA BENA, Miss. (AP)—A U.S. military plane crashed into a field in rural Mississippi on Monday, killing at least 16 people aboard and spreading debris for miles, officials said. Le Flore County Emergency Management Agency Director Frank Randle told reporters at a late

briefing that 16 bodies had been recovered after the KC-130 spiraled into the ground about 85 miles (135 kilometers) north of Jackson in the Mississippi Delta. Marine Corps spokeswoman Capt. Sarah Burns said in a statement that a KC-130 “experienced a mishap” Monday evening but provided no details. The KC-130 is used as a refueling tanker. Andy Jones said he was working on his family’s catfish farm just before 4 p.m. when he heard a boom and looked up to see the plane corkscrewing downward with one engine smoking.

Man, 20, linked to search for missing men held on \$1M bail

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—A 20-year-old linked to the property where the FBI is searching for four missing Pennsylvania men was arrested Monday and held on \$1 million bail on a gun charge, although authorities did not call him a suspect in the feared foul play. Cosmo DiNardo, of Bensalem, was accused of possessing a shotgun and ammunition in February despite a history of mental illness that includes an involuntary commitment, according to a police affidavit. His arrest comes as the FBI uses heavy equipment to search his family’s sprawling farm property in Solebury Township, about 30 miles (48 kilometers) north of Philadelphia. Authorities on Monday chased fast-developing leads in the search for four young men, but said it could take days despite intense efforts centered on a large swath of the family’s farmland. Six other police agencies were involved.

fidavit says.

Kang, a trained air traffic controller based at Hawaii’s Wheeler Army Airfield, had his military clearance revoked in 2012 for making pro-Islamic State comments while at work and on-post and threatening to hurt or kill fellow service members.

His clearance was reinstated a year later after he completed military requirements.

However, the affidavit says the Army believed Kang was becoming radicalized in 2016 and asked the FBI to investigate.

Kang has two firearms registered in his name, an AR-15-style assault rifle and a handgun. After the shooting last summer at a gay nightclub in Orlando, Florida, he told an undercover source that the “shooter did what he had to do and later said that America is the only terrorist organization in the world,” according to the affidavit.

The document alleges he also later told the same source that “Hitler was right, saying he believed in the mass killing of Jews.”

Kang enlisted in the Army in December 2001, just months after the Sept. 11 attacks. He served in Iraq from March 2010 to February 2011 and Afghanistan from July 2013 to April 2014. Kang was assigned to the headquarters of the 25th Combat Aviation Brigade.

Asia

Japan's leader sees popularity sink, seeks Cabinet shuffle

TOKYO (AP)—With his government's approval ratings sinking to their lowest level since he returned to power in 2012, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe says he will reshuffle his Cabinet next month as he looks to rebound from his party's recent crushing defeat in Tokyo municipal elections.

Results published Monday from a weekend poll by the liberal Asahi newspaper showed support for Abe's Cabinet at 33 percent, down seven points from a week earlier, while disapproval stood at 47 percent, up five points. Polls by the conservative Yomiuri newspaper and NTV, both known as pro-Abe, as well as public broadcaster NHK showed similar results.

Experts say a slew of scandals, including a major one involving Abe, and the railroading of key legislation have hurt the prime minister's popularity, leading to his Liberal Democratic Party's heavy losses in the July 2 Tokyo assembly elections.

According to the Yomiuri poll, which was taken July 7-9, support for Abe's government fell to 36 percent, down 13 points from mid-June, while disapproval rose to 52 percent, from 41 percent. NTV's poll showed support fell to 32 percent, while NHK's showed it dropped to 35 percent.

"The size of the decline is shocking," the Yomiuri said, citing the 61 percent support that Abe's govern-



Kihei Maekawa, a former top education ministry bureaucrat speaks during a parliamentary hearing over a major ongoing scandal in which Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is alleged to have helped a friend gain government approval for his new veterinary school, in Tokyo, Monday, July 10, 2017. AP

ment had just two months ago. "While Prime Minister Abe repeats 'deep regret,' the public's distrust is growing more than ever."

Abe, traveling in Europe after the G-20 summit, told reporters Sunday that he would

reshuffle his Cabinet in early August. The Cabinet is expected to replace some of the ministers criticized for problematic remarks and scandals.

Defense Minister Tomomi Inada is among those expected to be removed. Inada

most recently came under fire over her remark at an election rally in which she sought support from her ministry and the Self-Defense Force for a ruling party candidate, allegedly violating laws stipulating neutrality of civil servants and the military.

In the absence of significant center-left alternatives and strong rivals in his party, Abe's tenure as prime minister is not under immediate threat. But Abe—in his second stint as prime minister, having previously served in 2006 and 2007—now has to watch out

Graft probe of Pakistan PM finds wealth 'disparity'

ISLAMABAD (AP)—An official investigation into corruption allegations against Pakistan's Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and his family has found a "significant disparity" between their declared wealth and known sources of income.

Sharif, who has previously denied allegations of abusing his authority to enrich himself, has been under pressure since documents leaked in 2016 from a Panama-based law firm disclosed that his family had offshore accounts.

Sharif and members of his family have appeared before a team appointed by the Supreme Court to investigate their offshore companies. Sharif has faced corruption allegations since coming to power in parliamentary elections in 2013.

"There exists a significant disparity between the wealth declared by the respondents

for any development in a major ongoing scandal in which he is alleged to have helped a friend gain government approval for his new veterinary school.

On Monday, a former top education ministry bureaucrat told a parliamentary hearing that Abe's office had significant influence over the school approval. Though Abe was not present, the hearing was apparently a compromise by his party, which has repeatedly refused to hold one, following the July 2 election defeat.

"The decision-making process was in parts extremely unfair and murky," Kihei Maekawa, former vice education minister, said Monday. "Clearly there was an influence by the Prime Minister's Office."

Maekawa said an Abe aide urged him to speed up the approval to meet the targeted school opening of April 2018, adding that he was speaking on behalf of Abe because "the prime minister cannot say this from his own mouth."

Officials in Abe's government denied distorting the approval process, saying it was part of their deregulation effort.

The veterinary school scandal is the second alleging that Abe or people close to him sought to influence the opening of new schools. Earlier, Abe's wife, Akie, was alleged to have used her influence in a school opening for an ultra-nationalistic Osaka educational group that she was closely associated with.

for planning and development.

Talal Chaudhry, a party spokesman, denounced the probe as part of a "conspiracy" aimed at removing the premier from office.

The opposition seized on the allegations, however, with cricket legend-turned-opposition leader Imran Khan calling on Sharif to "immediately step down."

The Supreme Court meanwhile put Pakistan's leading Jang newspaper group on notice for publishing a front-page story Monday suggesting it was based on content from the report, which had not been made public when the story came out.

The head of the investigation team told judges the paper's report was false, according to several lawyers who were present at Monday's court session. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the media.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Kim Jong Un attends concert feting N. Korea missile launch

TOKYO (AP)—North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has attended a concert replete with pop music and thunderous applause to fete the successful launch of his country's first intercontinental ballistic missile. Leading the bill at the concert was the Moranbong Band, an all-female ensemble that was hand-picked by Kim and serves as something of the "soft" face of his regime. Pyongyang has been the scene of a slew of special events to mark the July 4 launch of Hwasong-14, which is believed to be capable of reaching most of Alaska and possibly further. The concert, played before a packed crowd, many in uniform, also featured dancing. Clips of it shown on North Korean television on Monday showed the crowd repeatedly cheering and applauding for Kim.

Police patrol for poachers as animals flee flooding in India

GAUHATI, India (AP)—Police are patrolling for poachers as rhinoceros, deer and wild buffalo move to higher ground to escape floods devastating parts of northeast India, including a famed wildlife preserve. Kaziranga National Park in Assam state has the world's largest population of the one-horned rhinoceros and is home to many other species. Assam Forest and

Environment Minister Pramila Rani Brahma on Monday described the flooding situation in the park as grave after heavy monsoon rains in the past three weeks. Forest guards have found one carcass of a rhino that died in the floods, and Brahma said vehicles on a highway knocked down six deer over the weekend. Most forest guard posts in the park have flooded, and police are ordering drones to keep watch on the national park spread over an area of 500 square kilometers (195 square miles).

Afghan students denied US visa to attend robot competition

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Six female students from war-torn Afghanistan who had hoped to participate in an international robotics competition in the U.S. this month will have to watch via video link after their visa applications were denied—not once, but twice. The girls wanted to show the world that Afghans can also construct a hand-made robot. But of 162 teams who planned to participate, the Afghan girls are the only nation's team to be denied visas by the U.S. and must participate from afar, watching from their hometown in western Afghanistan. "When we heard that we were rejected we lost hope," said 14-year-old Sumaya Farooqi. "We applied again for the U.S. visa and we were rejected again."

ISLAMABAD (AP)—An official investigation into corruption allegations against Pakistan's Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and his family has found a "significant disparity" between their declared wealth and known sources of income.

Sharif, who has previously denied allegations of abusing his authority to enrich himself, has been under pressure since documents leaked in 2016 from a Panama-based law firm disclosed that his family had offshore accounts.

Sharif and members of his family have appeared before a team appointed by the Supreme Court to investigate their offshore companies. Sharif has faced corruption allegations since coming to power in parliamentary elections in 2013.

"There exists a significant disparity between the wealth declared by the respondents

and the means through which the respondents had generated income from known or declared sources," the report said, according to a partial copy released to reporters.

At one point the report refers to the "irregular movement" of cash gifts and loans from companies based in Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Britain to Sharif, his son and companies linked to them.

The report suggests that the courts pursue action based on a 1999 accountability law intended to help stamp out corruption. But the final decision rests with the Supreme Court, which will take up the case next Monday.

A minister from Sharif's ruling party dismissed the report, saying its findings were "unsubstantiated."

"The report contains no substance of corruption, tax fraud or any wrongdoing," said Ahsan Iqbal, the minister

World

Iraqi declares 'total victory' over Islamic State in Mosul

MOSUL, Iraq (AP)—Iraq on Monday declared “total victory” over the Islamic State group in Mosul, retaking full control of the country’s second-largest city three years after it was seized by extremists bent on building a global caliphate.

“This great feast day crowned the victories of the fighters and the Iraqis for the past three years,” said Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi, flanked by his senior military leadership at a small base on the edge of the Old City, where the final battles for Mosul unfolded.

Al-Abadi alluded to the brutality of the battle for Mosul—Iraq’s longest yet in the fight against IS—saying the triumph had been achieved “by the blood of our martyrs.”

While Mosul fell to IS in a matter of days in 2014, the campaign to retake the city lasted nearly nine months. The fight, closely backed by airstrikes from the U.S.-led coalition, brought an end to the extremists’ so-called territorial caliphate, but has also left thousands dead, entire neighborhoods in ruins and nearly 900,000 displaced from their homes.

Shortly after al-Abadi’s speech, the coalition congratulated him on the victory but noted



AP
Iraqis celebrate while holding national flags in Tahrir square in Baghdad, Iraq, Monday, July 10, 2017.

that parts of the Old City still “must be back-cleared of explosive devices and possible ISIS fighters in hiding.” ISIS, ISIL and Daesh are alternative acronyms for the Islamic State group.

“The victory in Mosul, a city where ISIS once proclaimed its so-called ‘caliphate,’ signals that its days in

Iraq and Syria are numbered,” President Donald Trump said in a statement.

Earlier in the day, airstrikes pounded the last IS-held territory on the western edge of the Tigris. Humvees rushed wounded to field hospitals and soldiers hurriedly filled bags with hand grenades to ferry to

the front.

Iraqi troops had slowly pushed through the narrow alleys of the Old City during the past week, punching holes through walls and demolishing houses to carve supply routes and fighting positions in a district where many of the buildings date back centuries.

For days, the remaining few hundred militants held an area measuring less than a square kilometer (less than half a square mile), and Iraqi commanders described victory as imminent.

Al-Abadi also visited Mosul on Sunday, congratulating the troops on recent gains but stopping short of declaring an outright victory as clashes continued.

The drawn-out endgame in Iraq’s fight for Mosul highlighted the resilience of the extremists and the continued reliance of Iraqi forces on air support to retake territory.

Iraqi commanders said gains slowed to a crawl in recent days as IS fighters used their families—including women and children—as human shields. As the battle space constricted, the coalition

Tillerson aims to ease Qatar crisis with shuttle diplomacy

KUWAIT CITY (AP)—The Trump administration tossed aside its aversion to mediating a weeks-long Persian Gulf dispute Monday, as the top U.S. diplomat flew to the region hoping to corral Qatar and its neighbors into negotiation. The new approach isn’t without diplomatic risk, thrusting America into the middle of an Arab squabble at a time President Donald Trump had hoped the U.S. allies would be uniting against terrorism.

On his first foray into shuttle diplomacy since becoming secretary of state, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson will hop between Kuwait, Qatar and Saudi Arabia from Monday until Thursday, testing ways to break an impasse that has persisted despite Kuwaiti mediation efforts. The crisis has badly damaged ties between several key American partners, including hosts of two major U.S. military bases, threatening counterterrorism efforts.

Tillerson landed in Kuwait City late Monday and was greeted at the airport by the Gulf country’s foreign minister, who chatted with Tillerson in the searing Kuwaiti sun and shared a traditional Arabic

coffee. On his first day in the country, Tillerson also met with Kuwait’s ruler, Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed Al Sabah.

“We are trying to resolve an issue that concerns not just us but the whole world,” Sheikh Sabah told the visiting U.S. diplomat.

Tillerson, noting that the Kuwaiti ruler would be visiting Washington in September, told his host that Trump looked forward to greeting him personally.

Washington is worried the dispute is hampering Trump’s bid to combat international terrorist financing. U.S. officials said Tillerson doesn’t expect an immediate breakthrough, which they warned could be months away. Rather, they said, he wants to explore possibilities for sparking negotiations.

“We’ve had one round of exchanges and dialogue and didn’t advance the ball,” senior Tillerson adviser R.C. Hammond said.

For the U.S., there are risks in getting so intimately involved in the spat among Gulf neighbors, reflected in Tillerson’s initial reluctance to play a central mediating role. Alienating either side of the

conflict could pose broader challenges for U.S. priorities in the region, including the fight against the Islamic State group and other extremists.

Lori Plotkin Boghardt, a Gulf expert at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, said the U.S. has had some success in recent years persuading Qatar to take action against terrorist financiers. She said if the U.S. appears to

WORLD BRIEFS

Search of Mexican prison where 28 died turns up knives

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Mexican authorities say a search of an Acapulco prison where 28 inmates were killed last week during fighting among rival gang members turned up knives and shanks, but no guns or drugs. Guerrero state’s public security agency said Monday that the search of the state prison uncovered 12 knives and 37 shanks. Authorities also found flat-screen televisions, a couple of air conditioners, cellphones and other contraband. Officials said Thursday’s riot in the Pacific coast resort stemmed from a dis-

pute among rival groups in the prison.

South African park rangers search for 4 escaped lions

JOHANNESBURG (AP)—Officials in South Africa say four male lions escaped from the country’s biggest wildlife reserve and were spotted in a nearby village. The national parks service says rangers are searching for the lions, who escaped from Kruger National Park on Sunday night. The lions were seen in Matsulu village and authorities are asking residents to be vigilant. In May, officials rounded up several lions that escaped from the same park.

In that case, they believed a dominant pride had chased the lions out of the Kruger reserve.

Romania: Ex-mayor gets suspended sentence for beach sales

BUCHAREST, Romania (AP)—A court has given a former Romanian mayor a four-year suspended prison sentence for illegally selling state-owned beaches. The Bucharest Court of Appeal convicted and sentenced former Constanta mayor Radu Mazare on Monday after one of Romania’s longest-running corruption trials. Mazare served as mayor

of the Black Sea port from 2000-2015. His trial began in 2008. Mazare can appeal. Another Constanta politician, Nicusor Constantinescu, received a three-year suspended sentence. Prosecutors say from November 2002 to July 2005, Mazare, Constantinescu and others illegally sold state-owned beaches and seafront property to aides and others. They said the maneuvers cost Romania 114 million euros (\$130 million.) The flamboyant Mazare frequently dressed up as Che Guevara and other figures. He apologized to Jewish groups after wearing a Nazi uniform to a 2009 fashion show.

Focus

By CHAD DAY and NEKESA
MUMBI MOODY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP)—A meeting between President Donald Trump's eldest son and a Russian lawyer during the presidential campaign occurred at the behest of a Moscow-based singer with family ties to Trump's businesses, according to a participant in the talks. Donald Trump Jr. acknowledged Monday he made time for the meeting hoping to get information about Democrat Hillary Clinton.

The circumstances surrounding the meeting, and a report by The New York Times late Monday that Trump Jr. was told ahead of time that the source of the information was the Russian government, fueled new questions about the Trump campaign's possible ties to Moscow, which are being scrutinized by federal and congressional investigators.

The Times reported that Trump Jr., who was a key campaign adviser to his father, was told the Russian government was behind the information on Clinton in an email from music publicist Rob Goldstone. The Times cited three unnamed people with knowledge of the email.

The report is the first public word that Trump Jr. took the meeting with the understanding that he would be presented with damaging information about his father's political opponent and that the material could have emanated from the Kremlin.

Goldstone spoke to The Associated Press earlier Monday to confirm he had set up the meeting on behalf of his client, Emin Agalarov, but he did not disclose the contents of the email described by The Times. Goldstone did not immediately respond to attempts to contact him Monday night.

In a statement, Trump Jr.'s New York-based attorney Alan Futerfas called the Times report "much ado about nothing," though he acknowledged his client had received an email from Goldstone to set up a meeting with the purpose of passing along damaging information on Clinton. His statement did not dispute the Times report on the email.

Futerfas said Trump Jr. was not told the specifics of the information and nothing came of the meeting. "The bottom line is that Don, Jr. did nothing wrong," Futerfas said in the statement, noting that the younger Trump hasn't been contacted by any congressional committees or Special Counsel Robert Mueller's office.

The White House referred questions to the president's son. Mark Corallo, a spokesman



AP
In this May 8, 2017 file photo, Donald Trump Jr. speaks in Indianapolis. President Donald Trump's eldest son acknowledged Monday, July 10, 2017, that he met a Russian lawyer during the 2016 presidential campaign to hear information about his father's Democratic opponent, Hillary Clinton.

for President Donald Trump's outside legal team, would not comment on the Times story, reiterating only that Trump "was not aware of and did not attend the meeting."

Earlier Monday, Trump Jr. tried to brush off the significance of the meeting, tweeting sarcastically, "Obviously I'm the first person on a campaign to ever take a meeting to hear info about an opponent... went nowhere but had to listen."

Trump Jr. also said on Twitter he was willing to work with the Senate intelligence committee, one of the panels probing possible campaign collusion, "to pass on what I know."

Lawmakers on the committee from both parties said they indeed wanted to talk with the president's son. Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, said the panel "needs to interview him and others who attended the meeting." Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., agreed, saying, "Based on his own admissions, this is an attempt at collusion."

The sequence of events that led to the June 2016 meeting highlighted the tangled web of relationships that investigators now are sorting through.

The president's son said the meeting was arranged by an acquaintance he knew through the 2013 Miss Universe pageant Trump held in Moscow.

Trump Jr. initially didn't

comment on the AP, Goldstone confirmed he set up the meeting on behalf of Agalarov. Goldstone said the Russian lawyer, Natalia Veselnitskaya, stated that she had information about purported illegal campaign contributions to the Democratic National Committee that she thought Trump Jr. might find helpful.

Goldstone said Trump Jr. agreed to squeeze the meeting into a tight schedule.

Dmitry Peskov, a spokesman for Russian President Vladimir Putin, said Monday the Kremlin doesn't know Veselnitskaya and "cannot keep track" of every Russian lawyer who holds meetings in Russia or abroad. Although she has not been publicly linked with the Russian government itself, Veselnitskaya represented the son of a vice president of state-owned Russian Railways in a New York money-laundering case settled in May before a trial.

A staff member at Veselnitskaya's firm told the AP on Monday that she was unavailable for comment.

During his visit to Moscow, Trump spent time with Agalarov, appearing in a music video with him and several contestants in the pageant, which Trump owned at the time. Agalarov's father, Aras, is a Russian developer who sought to partner with Trump

on a hotel project in Moscow and tried to set up a meeting between Trump and Putin during the Miss Universe contest.

According to The Washington Post and several other media accounts, the elder Agalarov paid Trump \$14 million to \$20 million to stage the pageant in Moscow. But Aras Agalarov was unable to persuade Putin to meet with Trump. Putin canceled the session, sending a Trump a friendly letter and a lacquered box in appreciation, the Post has reported.

On Monday, Goldstone said the Trumps and the Agalarovs stayed in contact after the pageant, and Emin Agalarov asked him to reach out to the Trumps to broker the June meeting with Veselnitskaya.

Jared Kushner, Trump's son-in-law and now White House senior adviser, and then-campaign chairman Paul Manafort attended the meeting. Goldstone said he and a translator also participated.

During the meeting, Goldstone said, Veselnitskaya made comments about campaign funding "that were not specific," and then turned the subject to a discontinued Russian adoption program and the Magnitsky Act, a bill passed in 2012 that allows the U.S. to impose sanctions on Russians for human rights violations.

Goldstone said that at one point during the meeting,

Trump Jr. admits he wanted info on Clinton from Russian

Trump Jr. or Kushner said, "Can we get to the point?"

And later, after Veselnitskaya had finished her presentation, Trump Jr. said, "Is that it?"

"The whole thing was really vague," Goldstone said. He said he and Trump Jr. were the last to leave the room, and "I turned to him and said: 'I'm really embarrassed. I don't know what that was.'"

Unlike Kushner, Trump Jr. does not serve in the administration and is not required to disclose his foreign contacts.

Over the weekend, Trump Jr. initially omitted any mention of Clinton from his account of the meeting, describing it as a "short introductory meeting" focused on the disbanded program that had allowed American adoptions of Russian children. Moscow ended the adoptions in response to the Magnitsky Act sanctions.

A day later, Trump Jr. acknowledged he was told beforehand that Veselnitskaya might have information "helpful" to the Trump campaign, and was told by her during the meeting that she had something about Clinton.

"No details or supporting information was provided or even offered," he said. "It quickly became clear that she had no meaningful information." He said there was no follow-up after the meeting

and his father was unaware it happened.

Foreign nationals are prohibited from providing "anything of value" to campaigns, and that same law also bars solicitation of such assistance. The law typically applies to monetary campaign contributions, but courts might consider information such as opposition research to be something of value.

Bradley A. Smith, a former Bill Clinton-appointed Republican Federal Election Commission member, said that based on what's known about the meeting, Trump Jr.'s actions are unlikely to be considered illegal solicitation.

"It's not illegal to meet with someone to find out what they have to offer," Smith said.

But Larry Noble, a former general counsel at the Federal Election Commission, said the situation "raises all sorts of red flags."

"You do not want your campaign to be involved with foreign nationals, period," said Noble, now senior director at the Campaign Legal Center.

The New York Times first reported the lawyer's meeting with Trump Jr. and the meeting's prospect of negative information about Clinton. Trump Jr.'s acknowledgment that he hoped to get information from her on Clinton only came in response to questions from the Times.

Good Housekeeping

On Gardening: Prairie Sun steals the show

By NORMAN WINTER
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Fourteen years ago, Prairie Sun one of the most beautiful gloriosa daisies was chosen as an All-America Selections Award Winner. This award followed on the heel of Indian Summer another outstanding selection, and this might have garnered all the love and attention it deserved. Thanks to progressive greenhouse growers and a new generation of landscape color professionals, this outstanding Rudbeckia hirta is dazzling in both commercial and homeowner landscapes.

Rudbeckia hirta commonly called black-eyed Susans or gloriosa daisies are treated as short-lived perennials or annuals in many gardens. The flower power they generate is worth every penny regardless of how you use them.

Prairie Sun is cold hardy in zones 3-8 but as an annual everyone can enjoy their sizzling color, orange petals that give way to primrose tips. The large disk or eye is green in Prairie Sun generating, even more, glances from passing visitors.

Like Indian Summer, Prai-



Prairie Sun, an All-America Selections winner this year, will reach from 24 to 36 inches in height and probably will be the most attractive flower in the landscape throughout a long blooming season. It produces 5- to 9-inch flowers on 18-inch stems.



Prairie Sun is the quintessential cottage garden plant but perfect for today's modern landscapes.

rie Sun will top out at 2 1/2-to-3 feet with a 2-foot spread. The flowers are huge reaching 5 inches across. This summer one of the most dazzling partnerships used Prairies Sun and Wasabi coleus. I particularly loved how the Wasabi echoed the color of the green Prairie Sun eye.

You can never underestimate the complementary color of blue when it comes to Prairie Sun. All shades of blue from the lightest to the darkest shades provide a marriage made in garden heaven. So consider pairing with petunias,



The color blue is the perfect complement to the Prairie Sun gloriosa daisy.

AP

salvias, or Scaevola.

I'll come right out and admit it — I am a gloriosa daisy or Rudbeckia hirta freak. They are the quintessential cottage garden plant but remain the perfect choice for today's modern landscapes whether it's a home, commercial, or park setting.

Rudbeckias perform best in full sun with fertile well-drained soil. Tight, compact clay or soggy soil yields less than satisfactory results. So if you find yourself in this situation incorporate 3-to-4 inches of organic matter like compost, peat or humus before planting. Set your transplant in the soil at the same depth it is growing in the container. Finish the task by applying a layer of your favorite mulch.

With gloriosa daisies like Prairie Sun, Indian Summer, or the shorter Corona, your garden will receive attention from visitors while attracting bees and butterflies followed by birds for the seeds. I would say that is hard to beat.



Wasabi coleus echoes the color of the green eye in the Prairie Sun gloriosa daisy.

AP

(Norman Winter is director of the Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens at the Historic Bamboo Farm, University of Georgia Cooperative Extension, and author of "Tough-as-Nails Flowers for the South" and "Captivating Combinations: Color and Style in the Garden." Follow him at: @CGBGgardenguru

GOOD HOUSEKEEPING ONE

Frozen Fruit Yogurt

It's so simple! In just 10 minutes you can make delicious frozen yogurt by blending your favorite frozen fruit with plain yogurt! And it's low-fat!

12 ounces frozen strawberries, cherries or peaches (about 2 3/4 cups), or 10 ounces frozen raspberries (about 2 1/3 cups)

1 container (8 ounces) plain low-fat yogurt

1/2 cup sugar

1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice

1/8 teaspoon almond extract

1. In food processor, with

knife blade attached, blend frozen fruit until fruit resembles finely shaved ice, stopping processor occasionally to scrape down sides. If fruit is not finely shaved, dessert will not be smooth.

2. Add yogurt, sugar, lemon juice and almond extract, and process just until mixture is smooth and creamy, scraping down sides occasionally. Serve immediately. Or, spoon into freezer-safe containers and freeze to serve later; let stand at room temperature 10 minutes to soften slightly before serving. Makes about 2 1/2 cups.

TIP: If you want to freeze fresh fruit yourself, spread a single layer of whole berries, pitted cherries, peeled and sliced peaches, nectarines or plums, or melon chunks in 15 1/2-by-10 1/2-inch jelly-roll pan; freeze until firm. When frozen, place fruit in freezer-weight self-sealing plastic bag and return to freezer to use within three months.

* Each serving: About 130 calories, 1g total fat (1g saturated), 3g protein, 29g carb., 1g fiber, 3mg cholesterol, 35mg sodium.

For thousands of triple-tested recipes, visit our website at www.goodhousekeeping.com/recipes/.



All varieties of **thyme** come from the lands surrounding the Mediterranean Sea. The Egyptians and ancient Greeks appreciated its antiseptic properties; Dioscorides mentioned its value as an expectorant and Pliny recommended it for fumigating. The ancient Romans flavored alcoholic beverages with it. The famous Hymettus honey of Greece is specially flavored through bees gathering pollen from the wild thyme flowering on Mount Hymettus near Athens.

- Brenda Weaver

Sources: www.history.com, theepicentre.com

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Life & Style

'War for the Planet of the Apes' is a rare breed of blockbuster

By KATIE WALSH
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

The recent "Planet of the Apes" series feels like a miracle. Starting with "Rise of the Planet of the Apes" in 2011, followed by "Dawn of the Planet of the Apes" in 2014, and with this summer's "War for the Planet of the Apes," the blockbuster franchise has prioritized story, character and emotion without ever sacrificing spectacle. They are technological marvels, featuring stunning achievements in motion-capture performance. With emotionally resonant stories, thrilling heroics, and trenchant cultural observations, the "Apes" franchise is a rare breed of blockbuster, where filmmakers have been given the freedom to tell the stories they want, the way they want.

Director/co-writer Matt Reeves and writer Mark Bomback have reunited on "War for the Planet of the Apes" after collaborating on "Dawn," and they've created a summer blockbuster that finds its power in restraint. The bombast here is emotional, not digital. As a war movie, it's like small-



This image released by Twentieth Century Fox shows a scene from, "War for the Planet of the Apes."

AP

er, more character-driven films, such as the 1956 Robert Bresson film "A Man Escaped," or the 1938 Jean Renoir film "La Grande Illusion." These are films that take place in the midst of a seemingly never-ending war, focusing on the individuals within war—the relationships forged and lives lost, the trauma and torture.

In "War," the plot hinges

not around huge battles, but spy missions, escape plans, secret tunnels, mind games and lucky breaks. Each death and every betrayal is deeply felt, and the film becomes a rumination on the psychological effects that war has on a soul after a prolonged experience.

At the center is one of the most unforgettable movie characters of recent years,

Caesar, portrayed by Andy Serkis, an uncommonly intelligent ape (the result of lab experimentation), who becomes a noble, empathetic leader throughout the clashes between human and ape. Caesar is a true hero, a complex, deeply loving and loved individual, tormented by violence and unrest among his commu-

nity and between apes and humans, and it's easy to root for and admire him.

Here, he's pitted against The Colonel, played by Woody Harrelson, and if Caesar is in "A Man Escaped," Harrelson is planted firmly in "Apocalypse Now," down to the black face paint and '70s rock (the film even has some fun with



Cast: Andy Serkis, Woody Harrelson, Steve Zahn, Amiah Miller, Toby Kebbel, Gabriel Chavarria

Directed by Matt Reeves
Running time: 2 hours, 20 minutes

Rated PG-13 for sequences of sci-fi violence and action, thematic elements, and some disturbing images.

the reference, with "Apocalypse Now" graffiti'd on tunnel walls). He's a Colonel Kurtz type, a man who has spent too long in battle, the violence, paranoia and grief rotting his brain.

Bombastic understands the power of efficiency in screenwriting. With ape characters who only have rudimentary speech, it doesn't need to be a wordy screenplay. He works with character archetypes—the hero, the madman, the right-hand, the slave, the soldier, the innocent—but renders them all into rich characters in their own right, with individual histories, losses and triumphs.

Charlie Puth: 'No more love ballads'

By WILLIAM ROBERT FERRER
THE SEATTLE TIMES

"No more love ballads," Charlie Puth declares. "That was people nudging me in a direction that I didn't want to go in."

Puth, of course, is alluding to his first album, "Nine Track Mind," a commercial success that failed to land with critics. Packed with love songs, the album is an exercise in repetition. But Puth says those never-ending tales of torturous and unrequited love do not define him, his style or his experience.

"That was all hypothetical," Puth says in a telephone interview. "And I won't, a lot of those songs, didn't—I don't want to—I'm trying to find the right way to say this."

"Like, not that they don't mean that much to me, it's that they weren't me," Puth says. "Those songs weren't me."

When asked about "Marvin Gaye," his career-making duet with Meghan Trainor, Puth just laughs. "Dude, I wrote that song for Cee Lo (Green)! I wrote that song as a joke! And it ended up being like a big hit!"

It's not that the Grammy-



Puth

nominated singer (for "See You Again," his duet with Wiz Khalifa) doesn't appreciate what his first album has given him—at one point, he stops the interview to say how happy it makes him to hear fans scream the lyrics to "One Call Away." Rather, he sees his first record as rite of passage, a steppingstone to the artist he'd like to be.

"But the music that you're going to hear from this new album ... I've proven myself," he says. "I've written hits for other people, and I've written hits for myself in a very short amount of time."

Puth's sophomore album "Voice Notes" is due this fall.

According to Puth, his more authentic self is often somber and imperfect, a far cry from the "pristine boy pop wonder" (his words) image promulgated by "Nine Track Mind."

"You know I've had some dark thoughts before and some dark times in my life and I've been really messed up," Puth says.

His next album, he hopes, reflects that side of him. Describing the tracklist, he talks of songs about "(being) in this club by myself, dancing with

some person, and I have no idea what her name is," about "how girls can show their true colors and how they have ulterior motives."

"And, you know, desperation records," Puth adds. "And me not being a perfect person. Me expressing, (to) many people, just have a little patience with me. I'm not going to be exactly what you need at this moment, but I will."

That subversion is largely missing from his most recent single, "Attention," though.

Sung in Puth's unmistakable falsetto, "Attention" has a lot in common with first-album single "We Don't Talk Anymore." There's the girl who doesn't get it and there's the guy with the aching heart.

There is something "against-the-grain" about the single. It's a club song that doesn't want to be a club song.

"The natural inclination is to, like, dada-DADA, build-up-BUILD-UP," Puth says with a musical lilt. And "Attention," with its low, booming, guitar-infused chorus, seems to be actively resisting that impulse.

"I live for making music for people," Puth says. "I'm never going to make everybody happy, but—how can I just make them a little bit happier? I want to make some people dance."

In Celebration of his new life † Pauleus Arriola Agulto

Lovingly Known as "PAUL"

Born to Life June 04, 1990 • Called to Eternal life on July 05, 2017

In his new life, he now joins his:

PATERNAL GRANDFATHER: †Francisco Pangelinan Agulto
GRANDPARENTS: †Antonio Santos Arriola
†Cecilia Muna Aguon-Arriola
†Miguel A. Arriola
†Francisco A. Arriola

UNCLES:

His memories will forever live in the hearts of his:
COMMON LAW WIFE: Rhenna Rose R. Aquino
DAUGHTERS: Avery Rose A. Agulto
Avonie Renay A. Agulto
GRANDMOTHER: Escolastica Taitano Aldan – Agulto
PARENTS: Maria Aguon Arriola – Agulto
Newly Aldan Agulto
UNCLES-IN-LAW: Regino E. Aquino
Rossana R. Aquino
BROTHERS & SISTERS: Neyton A. Agulto
Franklin A. Agulto / Tanya
Courtney Agulto / Richard (Conner, Anaya)
Monique Agulto / Dexter (Elijah, Deon)
BROTHER-IN-LAW & SISTERS-IN-LAW: Cindy Aquino (Tiana Marie Riner, Thomas Daniel Riner, Neekah Jane Riner, Cameron James Riner)
Belma Marie R. Aquino (Mark Ronquillo Aquino, Nicolas Leok Ronquillo Aquino, Felix Isaiab Aquino Castro)
Regino Aquino Ronquillo Jr.

UNCLES, AUNTIES AND FAMILY: Rosa / Amicio Mitsuuru
Gloria / Cas Cabrera
Carla / Ed Pangelinan
Dian / John Lairopi
Gina Agulto
Clarissa / Jason Mad
Sonia / Ray Deleon Guerrero
Francisca / Ramon Sablan
Jesus / Violi Arriola
Abilina / Mark Cruz
Mariano / Judith Arriola
Joseph / Tina Arriola
Antonio Jr. / Lorraine Arriola
Nick Muña

BEST FRIEND:
He is additionally survived by his numerous nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.



Funeral Services will be held on Thursday, July 13, 2017. His remains will be escorted from Nuestra Señora dela Paz Memorial Chapel at 7:30 am to Mount Carmel Cathedral. Reponsorial Service and Holy Rosary will take place upon arrival of remains.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 am followed by Interment Service at Mount Carmel Cemetery where he will be at a peaceful rest.

Please join us in prayers,
Thank you—Si Yu's Ma'ase

The Family

STILL IN A 'LEAGUE' OF HER OWN

Geena Davis still a heavy hitter off camera

By Mark Olsen
LOS ANGELES TIMES

It's been 25 years since Geena Davis starred in "A League of Their Own," a film that broke ground not only for its strong, mostly female cast but because it was a major film directed by a woman, Penny Marshall.

Released July 1, 1992, the film was based on the true story of an all-women baseball league started during World War II and went on to become a beloved, and still all too rare, female-centered sports film. Coming out just a year after she and Susan Sarandon made movie history by driving their 1966 Ford Thunderbird into the Grand Canyon, "League" helped seal Davis' place in Hollywood as a feminist voice.

Davis, who won an Oscar in 1989 for "The Accidental Tourist," was nominated for a Golden Globe for her role in "League," which also starred Tom Hanks, Lori Petty, Rosie O'Donnell, Jon Lovitz and Madonna.

After winning a Golden Globe in 2006 for the TV series "Commander in Chief"—playing a female U.S. president—she has continued to move between television and movies.

In January, she was at Sundance with the film "Marjorie Prime" and has in the last few years appeared on TV's "The Exorcist" and "Grey's Anatomy."

Beyond her acting roles, however, she has become a real force off-camera.

She founded the Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media, which conducts research to create statistics around gender and diversity representation in entertainment. And she cofounded the Bentonville

Film Festival in Bentonville, Ark., dedicated to supporting women and diversity in the entertainment industry. At this year's festival, she participated in a celebratory baseball game to mark the anniversary of "A League of Their Own," which was recently released in a new Blu-ray edition.

In this interview, Davis talks about "A League of Their Own" and how she's still having many of the same conversations about women in Hollywood that she did when the film was first released.

Q: If "A League of Their Own" were coming out today, the fact that it's a little-known story of women's history with a mostly female cast and a female director would be much talked about. How did people respond to the movie at the time?

A: Reporters came to the set to interview us, and I noticed immediately that they all asked at some point, "Do you think this is a feminist movie?" Sort of conspiratorial, like, "I'm not really saying this out loud" sort of a thing and like, "Wouldn't it be weird if you actually said yes?"

And I would say yes. And they would say, "What, you do? Can I say that you said that?" And I was like, yes, you can. I mean, what's your definition of feminist? Feminist means believing in equal rights and opportunities, and this is about women playing baseball. So it's about women can play too.

But they were horrified; it was like I had said something horrifying and they generously wanted to be sure I wanted to allow them to print that I had said that.

Q: Are things much better now?

A: No, although I don't think



MATT BARON/REX SHUTTERSTOCK/ZUMA PRESS/TNS

Geena Davis is photographed on May 6, 2017 at the UCLA Mattel Children's Hospital Gala in Los Angeles.

they'd whisper the question. But as far as the perception of it when it came out, I noticed there was so much prognosticating that this would change everything.

Now that there's been a tremendous hit, a very successful movie starring women, there were going to be so many female sports movies. And I particularly noticed that because when I had done "Thelma and Louise," which came out a year earlier, it was the same thing, the press was saying, this changes everything. There are going to be so many female road pictures, female buddy pictures, just more movies starring women because it struck such a nerve.

And neither prediction proved to be true whatsoever.

Q: Was the movie pivotal for you personally?

my self-esteem and my self-confidence. I'd always been a little self-conscious about my height. It was hard when I was in high school and everything, and I definitely felt I should be taking up less space in the world.

Learning to play a sport really changed my life. I became a trustee of the Women's Sports Foundation for 10 years, I had a website encouraging girls to know their rights through Title IX, and then eventually I took up archery because of that, and at 41 became a semi-finalist at the Olympic trials three years later. So it had a very big and lasting impact on my life.

Q: Does the conversation around women in media feel different now? Does having actual numbers through the work of the institute help move the conversation?

A: That's an excellent thought, because there is definitely far more talk about it now than back then. I even felt some compunction to not complain about not having enough parts, saying, "Oh, I'm just taking a vacation or a break," or "I'm just really fussy." Which I am, but don't ever admit that there aren't enough parts or you might seem unpopular. But now, as we see, so many of my peers and myself are talking about it and bringing it up, saying, "Hey, I'm not getting paid equally," "Hey, there's not enough parts" (rather) than, "I was turned down because I was too old at 36." And definitely that has changed, though whether that will create more change we have yet to see.

Also, just on a personal level, I had never really played any sports, and I definitely couldn't play baseball when I got cast. And so I trained really hard, and it was the first time that I was told that I had untapped athletic ability, which was an incredible compliment in my book, and so I felt like I really did, and it changed everything about

effective, which is getting the numbers. It's made all the difference. People didn't know, the people making kid's entertainment, they had no idea they were leaving out that many female characters in the world that was being created. So the numbers have made all the difference, and we've seen lots of evidence that merely learning the numbers is working because people making kids' entertainment actually care about kids.

However, for behind the camera, the numbers and the data have done absolutely nothing. The percentage of female directors has been known for decades.

There is nobody who would say, "I'm shocked to find out how few female directors there are." So that has no impact, knowing the numbers, and to generalize completely I would say that on-screen lack of women is unconscious bias, and from the evidence one would have to assume that behind the camera is conscious bias. So numbers are not going to change that and what I think will, is people doing like Ryan Murphy is doing and saying, "I'm just going to (hire) half (women) and making it happen. I just am, I'm not going to complain that there's not enough, I'm going to find them and hire them."

Q: In "A League of Their Own," did you really catch that pop-up fly ball behind your back?

A: I did. I figured out if you let the ball come right at your head, line yourself up so the ball is coming straight at your head and then duck your head forward as it comes, it will go right down your back. It turned out to be really easy, actually, once I figured out the physics of it.

among themselves as good parents," Shapiro said.

He said Kardashian agreed to the issuance of a temporary restraining order.

Outside the courthouse, Chyna said, "First and foremost, I want to thank the judge for granting me this restraining order to protect me and I want to (get) back to co-parenting Dream."

Kardashian and Chyna announced their engagement in April 2016 and starred in an E! reality show about their relationship.

Their daughter, Dream, was born last November. The couple split up a month later.

Kardashian is the younger brother of Kim Kardashian and appeared on several seasons of the family's reality series, "Keeping Up with the Kardashians."

Temporary restraining order issued against Rob Kardashian



Blac Chyna, right, and her attorney Lisa Bloom smile at a news conference outside a courthouse on Monday, July 10, 2017, in Los Angeles.

the case, citing their explicit nature. Bloom has accused Kardashian of cyber bullying.

Blancarte said his primary concern was the former couple's infant child. Bloom said

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A court commissioner on Monday issued a temporary restraining order against Rob Kardashian in response to the reality television star's posting of explicit images of his ex-fiancee on social media last week.

Los Angeles Superior Court Commissioner James E. Blancarte granted the order based on filings by Kardashian's ex Blac Chyna, who also claims he hit her in the thigh earlier this year, knocking her down and leaving her bruised.

"Rob has been violent with me in the past and I am afraid to be around him," Chyna, whose real name is Angela White, wrote in court documents filed Monday in Los Angeles.

The order bars Kardashian from contacting Chyna or

in court that nannies would handle custody transfers while the order is in place.

Kardashian did not appear at Monday's hearing. His lawyer Robert Shapiro apologized on his client's behalf outside the courthouse.

"We apologize and have offered our regrets for what has taken place over the past couple of days," Shapiro said. "And now we move forward to do one thing and one thing only: Whatever's in the best interest of the child."

He said the former couple remains focused on their daughter, who he said is currently being cared for by Kardashian.

"They're working this out

Family: Alcohol withdrawal lead to actor Nelsan Ellis' death

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"True Blood" actor Nelsan Ellis' death was caused by heart failure due to alcohol-

withdrawal complications, according to a statement released on behalf of his family.

The actor tried to wean

himself after years of failed rehab efforts, according to the statement given Monday to The Hollywood Reporter by Ellis' manager, Emily Gerson Saines.

Saines didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

Ellis died Saturday in a New York hospital at age 39. According to the statement, the actor's father, Tommie Lee Thompson, "bravely agreed" to share the circumstances of Ellis' death to make his loss count.

"Nelsan was ashamed of his addiction and thus was reluctant to talk about it during his life," the statement said. "His family, however, believes that in death he would want his life to serve as a cautionary tale in an attempt to help others."

During his withdrawal attempt, Ellis suffered a blood infection, kidney failure and his "dear sweet heart raced



out of control," according to his father. The actor died after

four days of hospitalization. The Illinois-born Ellis, who

In this Monday, July 21, 2014 file photo, actor Nelsan Ellis attends the world premiere of "Get On Up" at the Apollo Theater in New York. AP

studied at Juilliard, played the role of Lafayette, a gay short order cook, on HBO's "True Blood" from 2008 to 2014, and more recently was on the CBS detective series "Elementary."

Ellis appeared as Martin Luther King Jr. in Lee Daniels' "The Butler," and as singer Bobby Byrd in the James Brown biopic "Get On Up."

He was also a playwright and a stage director.

"Nelsan was a gentle, generous and kind soul. He was a father, a son, a grandson, a brother, a nephew, and a great friend to those that were lucky enough to know him," the statement said.

Jenkins to adapt James Baldwin for 'Moonlight' follow-up

NEW YORK (AP)—Writer-director Barry Jenkins' feature-film follow-up to his Oscar-winning "Moonlight" will be an adaptation of James Baldwin's "If Beale Street Could Talk."

Annapurna Pictures announced Monday that Jenkins will start shooting the film in October.

Jenkins said adapting Baldwin's 1974 novel about love and injustice in 1970s Harlem is "a dream I've long held dear." He penned the screenplay in the same

2013 summer during which

he wrote "Moonlight" from Tarell Alvin McCraney's play.

The Baldwin estate has given its blessing to the film, which follows Raoul Peck's Oscar-nominated Baldwin documentary "I Am Not Your Negro." "If Beale Street Could Talk" will return much of the production team behind "Moonlight," including producer Adele Romanski and Plan B.

Jenkins is also developing a series for Amazon based on Colson Whitehead's "The Underground Railroad."

Get enthusiastic for 'Curb Your Enthusiasm' returning Oct. 1

NEW YORK (AP)—You can curb your skepticism. HBO has locked down Oct. 1 to start a new season of the Larry David comedy "Curb Your Enthusiasm."

HBO said Monday that the 10 episodes will bring back regulars Jeff Garlin, Susie Esman and JB Smoove, among others.

This long-awaited ninth season was announced in June 2016 for some time in 2017. The eighth season had aired in 2011, and, until a year ago,

David remained tight-lipped about whether there would ever be more.

Premiering in 2000, the series was created by and stars David in a fictionalized version of himself as he stumbles through socially awkward situations.

Among David's projects since curbing this series: a hit Broadway play, "Fish in the Dark," and repeated appearances on "Saturday Night Live" impersonating Sen. Bernie Sanders.

Trump Jr. tweets 'Top Gun' video of dad shooting CNN jet

WASHINGTON (AP)—Donald Trump Jr. is promoting a new mock video of his father attacking CNN.

Trump Jr. tweeted a video of a doctored clip of the 1986 military thriller "Top Gun" on Saturday. In the video, President Donald Trump's face is superimposed over Tom Cruise's character as he shoots down a Russian jet bearing a CNN logo.

In the clip, Trump repeats his "you're fired" catchphrase before launching a missile.

Trump Jr. called the video "one of the best I've seen." It wasn't immediately clear where the video came from.

Earlier this month, President Donald Trump tweeted a doctored video clip from a pro-wrestling appearance that shows him pummeling a man whose face is covered by the CNN logo. The tweet became Trump's most-shared tweet, but also sparked



criticism of alleged juvenile behavior by the president.

Trump's tweet of the anti-CNN video came a few days after the president lashed out, also on Twitter, at Joe Scarborough and Mika Brzezinski, co-hosts of

MSNBC's "Morning Joe."

A White House aide defended the president, saying no one should perceive the video as a threat.

"I hope they don't. But I do

think that he's beaten up in a way on cable platforms that he has a right to respond to," said homeland security adviser Tom Bossert.

At the time, CNN said the president was engaging in "juvenile behavior far below the dignity of his office."

Trump adopted a hard line against the mainstream news media dating to the presidential campaign. He also regularly dismisses CNN as "fake news," including last week during a stop in Poland.

Costa Rica arrests suspect in threats at Ariana Grande show

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Authorities in Costa Rica arrested a 22-year-old Colombian man suspected of threatening to stage an attack at a concert by pop singer Ariana Grande.

The threat comes on the heels of a May 22 bombing

at a Grande performance in Manchester, England, that killed 22 people and injured dozens more.

The Costa Rica concert went ahead as scheduled Sunday in the city of Alajuela.

Costa Rican prosecutors said in a statement that the

suspect is a Colombian citizen who made the threats online.

Head Investigator Walter Espinoza told local media the threats were written in Arabic. He identified the suspect only by his family names, Caicedo Lopez.

Ex-White House spokesman Fleischer a Fox News contributor

NEW YORK (AP)—Fox News Channel has signed former White House press secretary Ari Fleischer to a contributor role.

The network announced Monday that Fleischer will provide "strategic communications and political analysis"

for both Fox News Channel and Fox Business Network.

Fleischer served as White House press secretary to former President George W. Bush from 2001 to 2003. He was senior communications adviser and spokesman for Bush's presidential campaign

beginning in 1999.

Currently he is the president of Ari Fleischer Communications and Ari Fleischer Sports Communications, offering advice and communications training to sports organizations, athletes and corporations.

Girls' mom needs jump start in conversation about puberty

DEAR ABBY: I'm a mother of three beautiful little girls. I'm nervous about having to talk with my oldest about puberty and sex. She's turning 10, and I know I need to start explaining certain things to her, but I have no idea how. My mother never sat me down and talked to me about anything, really, so my mom would not be of much help. Any advice you can offer would be greatly appreciated.

MINNESOTA MOM OF THREE

TALK TO THEIR CHILDREN ABOUT DRUGS AND ALCOHOL WELL BEFORE THEY START TO EXPERIMENT. My booklet "What Every Teen Should Know" covers sexuality as well as other topics, including dating, peer pressure, sexually transmitted diseases, drugs and alcohol. It can be ordered by sending your name and address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to Dear Abby Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price. Order it for yourself and review it before starting your discussions with your daughter. My Teen booklet has been distributed in doctors' offices as well as by educators and religious leaders. The more information you can provide your daughters, the better prepared those girls will be to make informed choices in the future.

DEAR ABBY: I've been with my girlfriend for seven years and, for the most part, our sex life is great. However, we've had disagreements when I suggested ways to spice it up.

I proposed costume/role play where she would dress up as an elf or other fantasy genre character. She hates the idea (and elves) and suggested lingerie (which I have bought for her

DEAR ABBY
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



in the past, but gets worn once or twice before being thrown away). I don't think my suggestion is outrageous compared to some of the letters I've seen in your column over the years. Am I wrong for thinking she's being closed-minded?

COSPLAY CURIOUS IN CALGARY

DEAR "COS": It strikes me that your girlfriend may be more clothes-minded than closed-minded. It's a fact of life that some people are more sexually adventurous than others. Because she finds the idea of dressing as an elf unappealing, choose another fantasy figure you can agree upon.

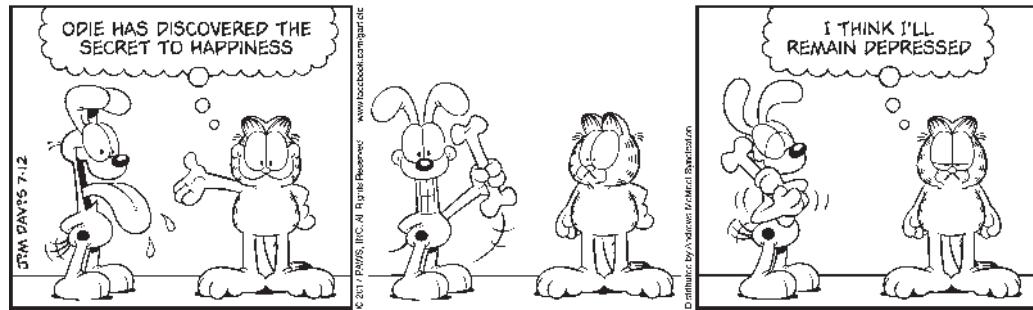
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



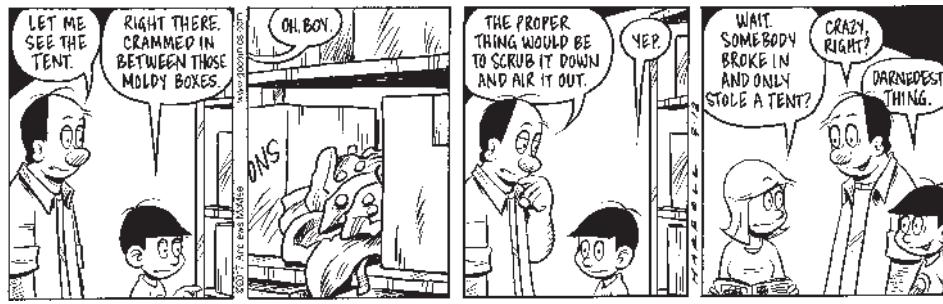
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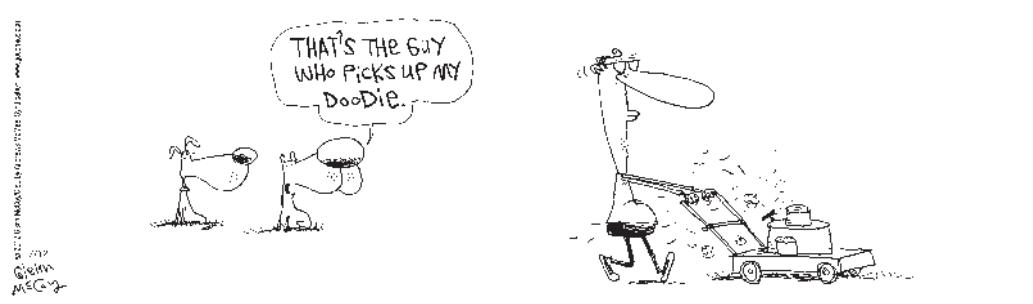
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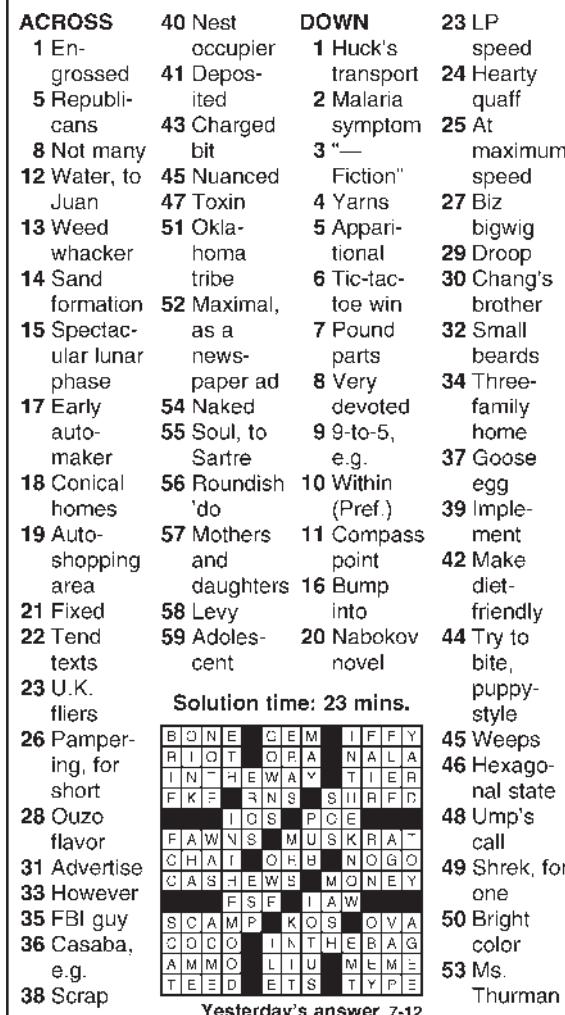
The Duplex



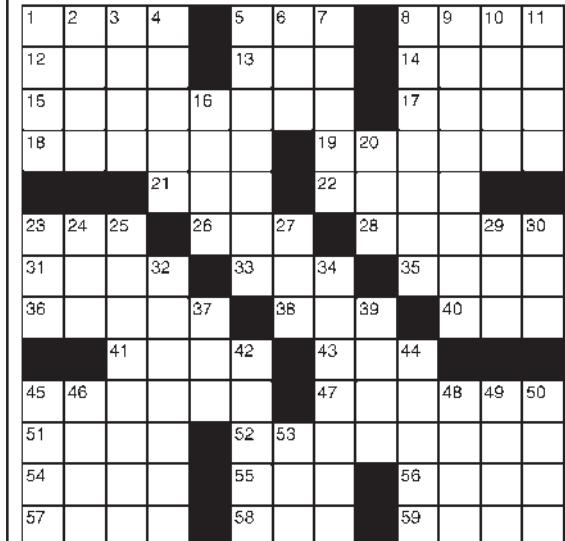
By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer



Yesterday's answer 7-12

**STUMPED?**

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CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY

Mala Yousafzai, 20; Kimberly Perry, 34; Topher Grace, 39; Michelle Rodriguez, 39.

Happy Birthday: Change can be good if you put your heart into accepting the inevitable and making the most of whatever transpires. A positive attitude will make the difference when it comes to change, relationships and learning as you go. Treat your body and mind with respect and stick to a healthy diet and exercise routine. Your numbers are 8, 14, 21, 24, 35, 39, 41.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): What you do for others will help you overcome any shortcomings at home or in your personal life. Don't let anyone talk you into overspending or being excessive. Offer love and peace, not discord.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Consider what others expect or want you to do, and make a decision to help or not based on time, money and desire. If you aren't fully motivated to do something, move on to an activity that suits you better.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Forming an alliance is encouraged. Sharing information will give you leverage regarding the changes you want to see happen. Going with the flow will give you the ability to have greater control over the outcome.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Some interesting opportunities will come your way. Take part in an event, retreat or conference that promotes something you have never experienced before. What you discover will

change the way you live and how you treat the ones you love.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): A change in the way you handle your personal finances, contracts or health issues will bring satisfactory results. Generosity is a wonderful characteristic to have, but only to a point. You cannot buy love or respect.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Accept the inevitable and work with what you have. It's how you move forward that will make a difference to how far you get. Don't let disillusion take over. Get the facts and react with precision, detail and intelligence.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Look at the big picture, but don't go overboard. Recognize any limitations or setbacks that challenge you and deal with them before you take on more. A complimentary attitude when dealing with others will help you get your way.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't let love confuse you. Learn from past experiences and use your intuition to figure out how you can get your way without disturbing those you care about. Look for an alternative route that offers greater relationship stability.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Take care when making promises. If you cannot live up to what's expected of you, it will cause widespread problems both at home and at work. Talk is cheap if you don't follow through. Rethink your strategy before you commit.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Some interesting opportunities will come your way. Take part in an event, retreat or conference that promotes something you have never experienced before. What you discover will

change the way you live and how you treat the ones you love.

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Remembering the past will be helpful when trying to move forward. Dealing with emotional issues will be difficult if someone is not honest with you about their feelings or intentions. Open communication will be necessary.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Self-indulgence based on false information should be recognized and dismissed. You'll gain far more if you stay focused on making a positive change at home. Act on facts, not on assumptions, if you want to avoid discord.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Let your creative imagination take over. If you are unique in your approach, your novel ideas will attract positive attention. Don't fall short due to problems in your personal life. Deal with emotional situations abruptly.

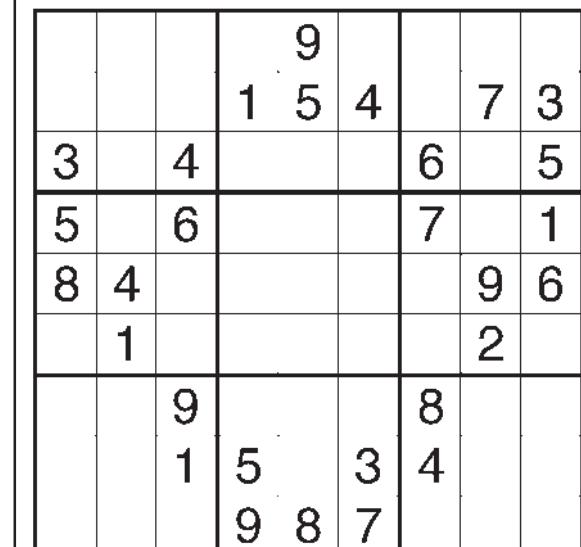
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Conceptis Sudoku

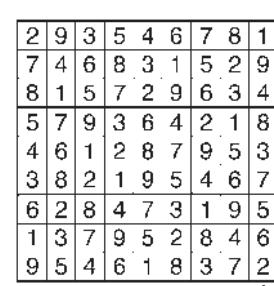
By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★★★

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUDET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle—horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

AYN RAND



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2017-CDA-07-IFB**

CLOSING DATE: Monday, July 17, 2017 • TIME: 10:00 a.m.

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 Copies of the bid specifications may be picked up at the Commonwealth Development Authority, Saipan Office, 2nd floor CDA Building, Oleai or the NMHC & CDA Rota Office at the Tamara & 7 Brothers Bldg. in Songsong Village during regular working hours.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any and all bids and proposals in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfection in a bid in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All bids shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/s/ **MANUEL A. SABLAN**
Executive Director/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
Director, Procurement and Supply
Office of the Public Auditor

 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
 Website: <http://www.opacnmi.com>
 1236 Yap Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

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ITB 17-OPA-01 (A-B)**

SUBMISSION DATE: August 2, 2017 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

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/s/ **MICHAEL PAI, CPA**
PUBLIC AUDITOR/s/ **CHRISTIAN WALLACE**
PROCUREMENT OFFICER/OFFICE MANAGER
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All rise as Judge smashes his way to Home Run Derby title

MIAMI (AP)—Aaron Judge hit the glass behind left field that supports the retractable roof at Marlins Park. He drove balls over the Red Grooms home run sculpture in left-center, over the batter's eye in center and—unusually for a Home Run Derby, to the opposite field, too.

He even hit the roof.

The larger-than-life New York Yankees slugger dominated the All-Star Home Run Derby in the same manner he has smashed his way through his rookie season, beating Minnesota's Miguel Sano 11-10 with two minutes to spare in the final on Monday night.

"It was a blast. I enjoyed every minute of it—watching the other guys swing, coming here early and talking to the media," Judge said. "Everything about today was fantastic."

Five years ago, Judge won the college home run derby in Omaha, Nebraska. This time, he outslugged some of baseball's top stars, including local favorites Giancarlo Stanton and Justin Bour of the Miami Marlins.

"A lot more fans," Judge said. "Your adrenaline is pumping, you're nervous, you're excited. But this was an incredible experience."

Judge, 6-foot-7 and 282 pounds, hit 47 home runs in the derby that totaled 3.9 miles. His longest drive of the night went 513 feet, and he topped 500 four times.

"I thought I had seen it all before. He didn't even look like he was getting tired," said Seattle's Robinson Cano, the 2011 Derby winner. "He was going opposite field. He was late on the ball and he was putting the ball in the upper



deck."

Judge had no trouble hitting the roof, thought to be previously untouched by batted ball. That drive didn't count.

"I got it in BP, too, earlier. So I wasn't too surprised by that," Judge said.

Hitting second each time, Judge knocked out Bour 23-22 in the first round and beat Los Angeles Dodgers rookie Cody Bellinger 13-12 in the second. Then, with lightning visible behind the huge glass door, he hit a 458-foot drive above the batter's eye for the title.

"That guy Aaron Judge, he doesn't get tired," Sano said.

Many of the All-Stars sat in foul territory, some with their kids.

"I had never seen him in person. He's really impressive," said Colorado's Charlie Blackmon, who was eliminated in the first round. "The first time I saw him, he was in a crowd. I was wondering what he was standing on. He's a monster."

Judge leads the major leagues with 30 home runs, and some Yankees fans showed up to support him in their full dress - flowing black robes and white powdered wigs. Booed initially by the crowd of 37,027, Judge earned cheers once Stanton, the defending champion, and Bour were eliminated in the first round.

Judge has hit the longest home run in the regular season this year in the majors—495 feet. He broke a TV monitor at Yankee Stadium with a BP drive that went over the center-field bleachers in May and dented a door casing with a home run last week.

In Tuesday night's game, he's set to bat third for the

MIAMI (AP)—In a year when it seems just about everyone is a power hitter, Chris Sale and Max Scherzer know what awaits in Tuesday night's All-Star Game.

The American League's starting batting order has combined for 181 home runs, led by New York Yankees rookie sensation Aaron Judge with 30. The National League's lineup has 158, topped by 26 from hometown star Giancarlo Stanton of the Miami Marlins.

That's a whole lot of long balls.

"I'm gonna grip and rip as usual," Sale said Monday when AL manager Brad Mills announced the Boston ace will become the first pitcher to make consecutive All-Star starts representing different teams.

"I give up my fair share of homers. You can check the book. It happens," Sale said.



AP New York Yankees' Aaron Judge shows the trophy after winning the MLB baseball All-Star Home Run Derby, Monday, July 10, 2017, in Miami.

but added just one more. The crowd groaned when his last fell short.

"It just didn't work out as we had planned," Shine said.

Bellinger, hitting off his dad, former big leaguer Clay Bellinger, earned bonus time as four minutes expired with his 13th drive, into the right-field upper deck, then with five seconds remaining knocked out Blackmon 15-14.

Hitting without batting gloves, Bour excited fans with 22 homers. Judge, hitting against his regular BP pitcher, Danilo Valiente, had 22 through four minutes, according to the scoreboard, and when he hit one in bonus time he walked away. But scoreboard reverted to 22—apparently the roof shot was subtracted—and Judge added another with a few seconds left.

"I thought I had 23 already, but I guess I tied him," he said. "I really didn't have any worries."

Seeming tired, Sanchez opened the second round with 10 and Sano needed just 3:10 to hit 11, the longest at 491 feet. In a matchup of the leading candidates for rookies of the year, Bellinger hit 12 and Judge topped him with a minute to spare, including a 513-foot shot high off the window, a drive that left his bat at 119 mph and rose 143 feet.

"I had no pressure going into it," Judge said. "I'm a rookie. This is my first time doing it. For me, I got no expectations. I'm just going to go in there and have some fun."

AL's Chris Sale, NL's Max Scherzer to start All-Star Game

"If you let that creep in your mind, it's going to be a long night."

Sale has given up 11 homers after allowing a career-high 27 last year. Scherzer, who opens for the National League, tied for the NL high by giving up 31 homers last season and has allowed 13 this year.

There have been 3,343 home runs in 1,327 games this season, a rate that would leave this season's total at 6,122—on track to break the record of 5,693 hit in 2000 during the height of the Steroids Era.

"I've given up a lot of homers over the past year-and-a-half. That's really been something that's been a thorn in my side," Scherzer said. "I've had to become a better pitcher, locate better. Because of the home-run spike, I've dialed it in even more to try to make

my location better to try to prevent them."

Then with the Chicago White Sox, Sale pitched the first inning of last year's game at San Diego and allowed a two-out home run to Kris Bryant. Sale was traded in December for top prospects.

Sale will be the 16th pitcher to make consecutive All-Star starts, the first since Arizona's Randy Johnson in 2000-01 and the first in the AL since Toronto's Dave Stieb in 1983-84.

Born in Lakeland, about 240 miles northwest of Miami, the 28-year-old left-hander is 11-4 with a 2.75 ERA and a major league-leading 178 strikeouts in 127 2/3 innings.

"All my family lives here. Brothers, sisters, in-laws, parents, even my aunts and uncles and cousins," Sale said. "So to be able to be here not too far

from where I live now is nice. I can have my family, extended family come down and experience this with me."

"At the end of the day this is something I'll never forget," he said. "This is something I'll be hopefully sitting in a rocking chair when I'm 80 years old telling my grandkids and great-grandkids and things like that."

Scherzer, a 32-year-old right-hander who heads Washington's rotation, also will be making his second All-Star start. Then with Detroit, he

pitched a perfect inning at New York's Citi Field in 2013, when Sale followed with a pair of 1-2-3 innings and got the win. Scherzer will be the fifth pitcher to start All-Star Games for both leagues, following Vida Blue, Roger Clemens, Roy Halladay and John-

son. Scherzer is 10-5 with a 2.10 ERA and 173 strikeouts.

Sale and Scherzer took turns complimenting each other at Monday's announcement of the All-Star lineups.

"I love the way Chris goes out and competes. ... He'll do anything to win. He makes big-time pitches all the way—even if he takes 120 pitches. By far he's been one of my favorite players, pitchers to watch. It's even better to compete against him," Scherzer said.

Sale echoed that sentiment.

"I could almost say the same thing. I don't know if I've seen a guy compete as hard as he competes day in and day out," Sale said. "The fire, the intensity, the role model he can be for kids coming up to kind of take the bull by the horns and just compete. It's fun."

Sale and Scherzer have a common thread: both played for the La Crosse Loggers in the Northwoods League, a collegiate summer circuit. Scherzer was there in 2004 and Sale in 2008.

"So that's pretty interesting, too. We've had some ties for a while and played against each other for a while, too," Sale said.

Los Angeles Dodgers ace Clayton Kershaw, 14-2 with a 2.18 ERA, is ineligible to pitch in the All-Star Game because he started Sunday.

"I had already chosen Max, based on what I had just read numerically," NL manager Joe Maddon said.

Maddon's batting order has Colorado center fielder Charlie Blackmon leading off, followed by Stanton as the designated hitter. Washington right fielder Bryce Harper is third, followed by San Francisco

2-time champ Nadal loses 15-13 in 5th set at Wimbledon

LONDON (AP)—Rafael Nadal kept getting pushed to the brink of defeat. He kept resisting.

He dropped the first two sets, then won the next two. He erased two match points in the riveting fifth set's 10th game, then another two in its 20th game. Only when his fourth-round match against 16th-seeded Gilles Muller of Luxembourg stretched past 4½ hours, the sunlight fading, did Nadal blink.

After repeatedly digging himself out of difficult situations, Nadal finally succumbed, broken in the last game of a 6-3, 6-4, 3-6, 4-6, 15-13 loss to Muller on Monday.

"I played with the right determination, right passion, right attitude," Nadal said, "to win the match."

But he could not pull through, extending his drought without a quarterfinal berth at the All England Club to six years.

"Just tried to hang in there," Muller said. "Still kept believing. Yeah, somehow in the end, I made it."

Nadal won two of his 15 Grand Slam championships at Wimbledon, and played in the final three other times, most recently in 2011. But since then, Nadal's exits at the All England Club have come in the first round (2013), second round (2012, 2015) or fourth round (2014, 2017).

All of those losses, except Monday's, came against men ranked 100th or worse. The 34-year-old Muller is not exactly a giant-killer: He had lost 22 consecutive matches against players in the top five. And he'd only reached a Grand Slam quarterfinal once before, at the 2008 U.S. Open.

Nadal said Muller's powerful serve and crisp volleys make him "uncomfortable" to play.

Now Muller, who also beat Nadal at Wimbledon in 2005, will get a much-needed chance to recover before facing 2014 U.S. Open champion Marin Cilic in Wednesday's quarterfinals.

Other men's quarterfinals: defending champion Andy Murray against Sam Querrey of the U.S., Roger Federer against Milos Raonic, Tomas Berdych against Novak Djokovic or Adrian Mannarino. The Djokovic-Mannarino fourth-rounder was postponed until Tuesday; it had been scheduled for No. 1 Court after Nadal-Muller concluded.

But that duo played on and on, past 8 p.m., when the descending sun's reflection off the arena bothered Nadal so much that he held up action; chair umpire Ali Nili asked spectators to stand in the way and block the rays. A few games later, Nili told fans to stop doing the wave, suggesting they wait for the next changeover so play could proceed.

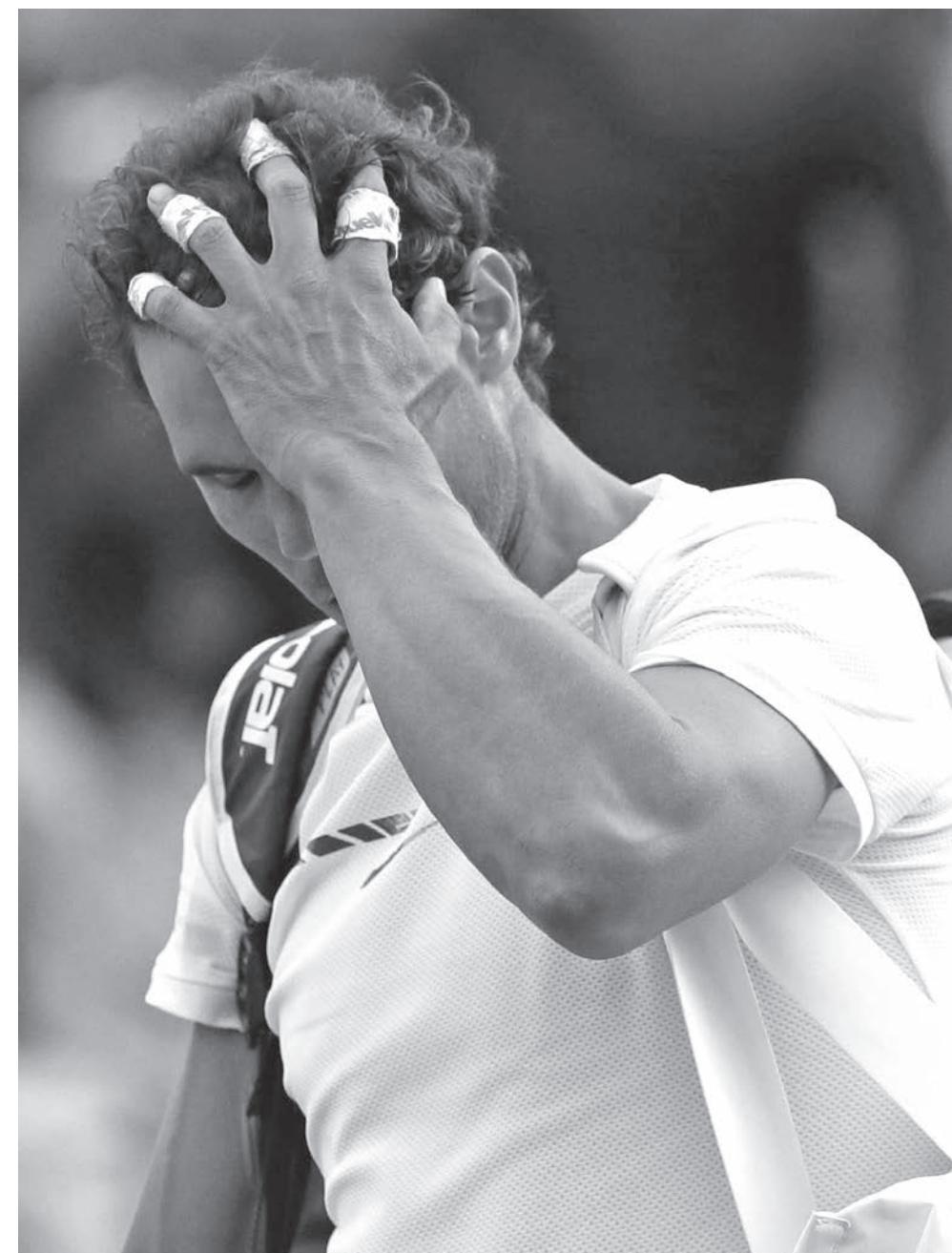
Hours earlier came what might be interpreted as a bad omen for Nadal: Going through his prematch rituals on the way to the court, he jumped up so high that he banged his head on the doorway's transom. He staggered back a bit, then tried to laugh it off, before rubbing the top of his head.

"Maybe that's why the first two sets I was winning quite easy," Muller joked. "Maybe still a little bit feeling dizzy."

After all, until Monday, Nadal hadn't lost a Grand Slam set since the fifth of the Australian Open final in January against Federer. From the outset of the French Open—where he won a record 10th championship last month—and through his first three matches at Wimbledon, Nadal won 28 consecutive completed sets at the majors. Healthy and playing terrifically, Nadal seemed poised to again be a factor at the All England Club.

Don't forget: From 2006-11, he reached the final in five consecutive Wimbledon (he missed it in 2009 because of bad knees), winning titles in 2008 and 2010.

After losing two sets in the opening 75 minutes against Muller, Nadal adjusted. He



Spain's Rafael Nadal leaves the court after losing to Luxembourg's Gilles Muller in their Men's Singles Match on day seven at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships in London Monday, July 10, 2017.

with brilliance from both.

Still, things were not looking good for Nadal when he served while down 5-4 and double-faulted to trail 15-40. But Nadal deflected those initial two match points for Muller with an ace and a service winner. Muller's next two match points came at 10-9: Nadal deleted the first with a volley winner, and the second disappeared when Muller shanked a return.

"It was not easy," Muller said, "to keep believing."

One key: Nadal converted only 2 of 16 break points. That included going 0 for 5 in the fifth set, four in one game, and was a big reason that the No. 4-seeded Spaniard lost despite remarkable totals of 77 winners and 17 unforced errors.

"When you are in the fifth, against a player like him, (the outcome) just depends on a few balls," Nadal said.

The fifth set alone lasted 2 hours, 15 minutes, until Nadal pushed a forehand long, meaning he would not manage to complete what would have been his fourth career comeback from two sets down.

Instead, it was Muller who was able to enjoy a win that seemed to be slipping away.

Williams vs. Ostapenko at Wimbledon as court questions arise

LONDON (AP)—Venus Williams is the oldest woman in the Wimbledon quarterfinals since 1994. Johanna Konta is the first British woman to make it that far since 1984. Angelique Kerber's loss means she'll relinquish the No. 1 ranking.

Jelena Ostapenko needed eight match points for her latest win—and latest proof that last month's French Open title was no fluke. Magdalena Rybarikova, a Slovakian ranked 87th, reached her first quarterfinal in 36 Grand Slam tournaments.

Those were among the significant goings-on in women's fourth-round action at the All England Club on Monday, when another topic took hold: Why were so few of these matches played on the tournament's biggest courts?

"I mean, honestly, I didn't think about that," the 13th-seeded Ostapenko said, then quickly added: "But, I mean, yeah, I think I deserve to play on a better court than Court 12, I guess."

The site of her 6-3, 7-6 (6) victory over No. 4 Elina Svitolina has a seating capacity

of 1,065, making it only the fifth largest for the event.

Garbine Muguruza beat Kerber 4-6, 6-4, 6-4 at Court No. 2, with its 4,063 seats, in a matchup between the past two Wimbledon runners-up, a pair of players with a combined three major championships, and the woman atop the WTA rankings (well, until next week).

While Kerber noted that scheduling is "not so easy" on the second Monday at Wimbledon—the only major with all men's and women's singles matches on one day—she added: "Of course, I was surprised."

Muguruza's take? "I don't want to make any problem. I'm so focused on what I do, I don't care if I played on 13, 1, 5," she said, then acknowledged: "I was expecting another court."

All England Club chief executive Richard Lewis said scheduling decisions involve "some difficult choices."

Lewis said one factor Monday was that "four of the all-time great male players"—Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal, Novak

Djokovic and Andy Murray—were all playing. Their matches were all on the tournament's two principal courts.

Both Centre Court (nearly 15,000 seats) and No. 1 Court (more than 11,000) had two men's matches and one women's match.

"I wouldn't say it's favoritism," Lewis said.

"In the end, it's not about male-female," he said. "It's about which matches in the end are the ones that the public and broadcasters most of all would like to see."

Five-time champion Williams played in the main stadium, winning 31 of 36 first-serve points while overpowering 27th-seeded Ana Konjuh of Croatia 6-3, 6-2.

Williams, a vocal advocate for Wimbledon's switch in 2007 to equal prize money for the genders, said about the court assignments: "I'm sure that the women ... would want more matches on Centre or Court No. 1 over the whole fortnight."

She and Murray think the All England Club should consider

placing four matches—two men's, two women's—at each of the top two arenas on what's called "Manic Monday."

Over on No. 1 Court, Konta won 7-6 (3), 4-6, 6-4 against No. 21 Caroline Garcia of France. Not since Jo Durie 33 years ago has the host country had a woman in the quarterfinals.

Britain's last female champion was Virginia Wade in 1977.

"I've dreamed of it ever since I was a little girl—to be a Grand Slam champion," said Konta, who had won just one match in five previous Wimbledon appearances.

Five-time champion Williams is 37; each of her past two opponents is 19. Now the American faces Ostapenko, who turned 20 last month and was born after Williams made her Grand Slam debut at the 1997 French Open.

"Winning never gets old at any stage in your career. Ever," Williams said, then repeated that final word for emphasis.

The other women's quarterfinal matchups Tuesday:

Konta vs. No. 2-seeded Simona Halep, Muguruza vs. two-time major champion Svetlana Kuznetsova and Rybarikova against 24th-seeded CoCo Vandeweghe of the U.S.

Halep, who lost to Ostapenko in the French Open final, defeated former No. 1 Victoria Azarenka 7-6 (3), 6-2 and would replace Kerber at No. 1 if she eliminates Konta next. If Halep loses, then 2016 U.S. Open runner-up Karolina Pliskova would move atop the rankings despite a second-round exit at Wimbledon.

Rybarikova, a 6-4, 2-6, 6-3 winner against 135th-ranked qualifier Petra Martic at Court 18 (capacity: 782), had no problem with the way matches were organized.

"To be honest, really, I enjoy watching more men's tennis," she said. "Also for the spectators, it's more enjoyable to watch, because it's ... Federer, Murray. Huge names. And I think they deserve, obviously, to be on Centre Court and Court 1. For me, myself, I'm happy to be on any court."

Independent review confirms decision for Horn over Pacquiao



SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — A n independent review of the scoring in Manny Pacquiao's contentious WBO welterweight world title loss to Jeff Horn has confirmed the outcome in favor of the Australian former schoolteacher.

A Philippines government department asked the WBO to review the refereeing and the judging of the so-called "Battle of Brisbane" in Australia on July 2 after Horn, fighting for his first world title, won a unanimous points decision against Pacquiao, an 11-time world champion.

In a statement late Monday, the WBO said three of the five independent judges who reviewed the bout awarded it to Horn, one awarded it to Pac-



Manny Pacquiao of the Philippines waves to his supporters after his loss to Jeff Horn of Australia, during their WBO World Welterweight title fight in Brisbane, Australia, Sunday, July 2, 2017.

quiao and one scored a draw.

WBO President Francisco Valcarcel asked the judges, who came from different countries and remained anonymous, to assign their own scores to rounds, saying the results would be tabulated to ascertain which rounds each fighter won using an average scale based on 100, 80 and 60 percent.

Based on the analysis, the WBO said Pacquiao won the 3rd, 8th and 9th round by 100 percent, the 5th round by 80 percent and the 11th by 60

percent. Horn was given the 1st, 6th and 12th rounds by 100 percent, the 2nd, 4th and 7th by 80 percent and the 10th by 60 percent.

"From the results, it can be established that Pacquiao won 5 rounds while Horn won 7 rounds," the WBO statement said.

A further step of combining the independent judge's scores for each round with the bout judge's scores for each round also confirmed a win for Horn, the WBO said.

The Philippines Games and Amusements Board (GAB) last week urged a review, saying it wanted to protect the integrity of the sport.

The fight, in front of more than 51,000 people at a rugby stadium in Brisbane, was scored

117-111 by Waleksa Roldan and 115-113 each by Chris Flores and Ramon Cerdan — Roldan's score coming in for most criticism. Pacquiao had Horn in wobbling and in trouble in the 9th round, but couldn't finish him off. Horn rallied late to hold on for a points decision and remain unbeaten in 18 professional fights.

"It gives me evidence behind me that I can just use now. Instead of saying 'I think I won the fight,' now a heap of other people — professionally — think I won the fight," Horn told reporters in Brisbane on Tuesday as he prepared to board a flight for Los Angeles. "It's definitely nice to have it finally put on paper."

"Now just to have it clear in front of us is good."

Chiefs promote Brett Veach to general manager



KANSAS CITY, Mo.

(AP) — It only took Brett Veach a decade to go from working as an assistant to Andy Reid in Philadelphia to standing alongside the Kansas City Chiefs' coach as their general manager.

The Chiefs announced Monday they had promoted their co-director of player personnel to the top job in the front office. Veach takes over for John Dorsey, who was let go after four years despite taking the once-downtrodden franchise from two wins prior to his arrival to an AFC West title last season.

Veach was an instrumental part of that rise, though, helping Dorsey to identify and acquire the kind of talent that has produced three playoff appearances in four years.

"Brett has a sharp football mind, a tremendous work eth-

ic and a keen eye for finding talent," Chiefs chairman Clark Hunt said in a statement.

"Over the last four seasons he's played a critical role in building our football team. I look forward to working with him to continue to build on the strong foundation we have in place."

The Chiefs will introduce Veach during a news conference July 24, the same day rookies and select veterans begin to report to Missouri Western for the start of training camp.

"My family and I would like to extend our gratitude to Clark and the Hunt family for this incredible opportunity," Veach said. "Together, we built a strong foundation of players that have helped us sustain success on the field. I'm looking forward to continuing our progress as we head into 2017."

The 39-year-old Veach, one of the youngest GMs in

the league, was a star running back in high school before playing wide receiver at Delaware. One of his quarterbacks during those years was Matt Nagy, who is now the Chiefs' co-offensive coordinator.

Veach envisioned as a career in collegiate administration before taking a job as Reid's assistant in Philadelphia in 2007. Three years later, he turned his attention to scouting, helping to assemble teams that consistently challenged for division championships.

Veach headed to Kansas City in 2013, shortly after Reid accepted the coaching job, and spent two years as a pro and college personnel analyst. His responsibilities expanded to player personnel two years ago, when he began working hand-in-hand with Dorsey and current Colts general manager Chris Ballard.

that 3x3 basketball will be the 14th event to be contested in the Mini Games. The addition was made after Van2017 was approached by FIBA Oceania and with the minimal cost of the hosting of the 3x3, organizers obliged and will run the competition from Dec. 11 to 15.

With MIBF sending a team to the 3x3 tournament, the Commonwealth will now have entries in three sports. The CNMI will also join the athletics and golf events.

CNMI

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are also hoping to have adult players represent the CNMI because we anticipate a tough competition in Vanuatu," Ran-

gan said.

The qualifying tournament will be held in August as the CNMI has only until October to submit the names of its delegates to the Mini Games. Rangamar added that they are looking to hold the qualifier on

a weekend, so interested Tinian and Rota teams could also come over and battle Saipan squads. MIBF is still looking for a venue, preferably an outdoor court since that's where 3x3 games are played.

So far, 10 countries have confirmed their participation in the 3x3 competition in Vanuatu, according to Clint Food, chief executive officer of the organizing Van2017. Last week, Food informed the Pacific Games Association-member countries

37-14, 55-21, 75-42.

Second Game

NMI/DYS Rollers 65
— Abobo 13, Fidelino 12, Tengco 9, Alipio 8, Ellama 8, Cobacha 5, Kisa 4, Mendoza 4, Kwon 2.

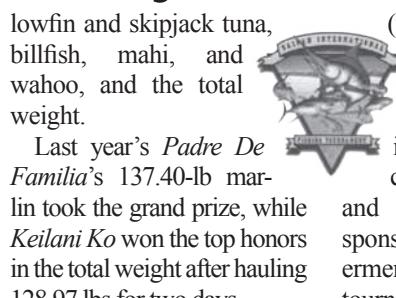
670 Sonics XVI 45 — Rafols 17, Apasan 8, Kintaro 4, De Guzman 4, Linaogo 4, Diaz 3, Magat 3.

Scoring by quarters: 13-11, 32-29, 45-40, 65-45.

Saipan International Fishing Tournament this weekend

The 33rd Saipan International Fishing Tournament will be held this weekend.

Boat captains and their anglers will battle for the grand prize and six other categories. The grand prize will be awarded to the boat with the single heaviest catch (marlin), while the team to beat the record 942-lb marlin will bring home a whopping \$10,000. Other categories to be contested are heaviest yellowfin and skipjack tuna, billfish, mahi, and wahoo, and the total weight.



Last year's *Padre De Familia*'s 137.40-lb marlin took the grand prize, while *Keilani Ko* won the top honors in the total weight after hauling 128.97 lbs for two days.

In the other categories, the winners were *Cabo Express* (billfish), *My Lady Gora* (yellow fin), *Marlin Chasers*

(wahoo), *Sweet Candy* (marlin), and *Carmita II* (skipjack).

The Top 3 winners in each categories received replica trophies and other prizes from the sponsors of the Saipan Fishermen Association-organized tournament.

Registration for this weekend's competition will be until this Friday at 5pm. (*Saipan Tribune*)

COUME

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downed No. 2 Alessia Van Der Eerden and Elim Yan, 6-4, 6-3, while in the semis, the CNMI-New Caledonia duo topped No. 5 Dayna Whiteley-Hall and Zara larke, 7-5, 6-1. In the earlier rounds, the eventual champions also swept Ezara Alphonso and Joellah Wan, 6-1, 6-0, and Amelia Johnson and Piper Khouri, 6-3, 6-2.

Meanwhile, Coume also joined the 2017 Rod Laver Queensland Junior Championships and marched into the semifinals of both the singles and doubles events.

In the main draw of the girls 12-and-under doubles competition, which had 33 teams, Coume joined forces anew with Cwajgenbaum and they were given the No. 4 seed

after their title conquest in the Rod Laver Lead. Coume and Cwajgenbaum then won their opening game against Lejla Buldo and Chloe Pham at the Ambierra Tennis Centre, 6-0, 6-2, and then had a similar straight sets victory over No. 14 Georgia Tan and Jessie Vo, 6-3, 6-3, to barge into the quarterfinals.

In the Round of 8, the CNMI-New Caledonia duo defeated another seeded pair in No. 7 Jemma Gossow and Steffani Madjer, 5-3, 4-2, to move one win away from their second finals stint in the Land Down Under. However, Coume and Cwajgenbaum fell short in their bid for a finals berth as they were beaten by No. 5 and eventual champions Dong and Frasser, 6-2, 3-6, 10-7.

In the singles, Coume won three matches in the consolation draw to make it to the

Final Four. She eliminated Tahlia Kokkinis, 4-1, 4-2; Elsa Rahmati, 4-1, 5-4 (3); and Frasser, 2-4, 5-3, 10-7, before bowing to Dong in the semifinals, 1-4, 1-4.

Coume along with older sister Conatsu and fellow CNMI players Seung Jin Paik and Ji Min Woo competed in the two tournaments in Australia as members of the Grand Slam Development Fund Touring Team from Pacific Oceania. They are now back in Fiji to continue training at the regional facility in Lautoka and will wait for other CNMI players that will compete in the 2017 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships next month. Coume's success in the Rod Laver Lead came after fellow junior player Carol Lee also triumphed in New Caledonia and Fiji tournaments.

the end of the opening canto, 13-11, and ahead by 3 at the break, 32-29.

Kenji Abobo paced the NMI/DYS Rollers with his 13 points, while Jun Fidelino added 12, and Jude Tengco tallied 9. Jun Alipio and Warren Ellama chipped in 8 apiece for the NMI/DYS Rollers' balance scoring. Rafols led the 670 Sonics XVI with his 17 markers, while Sean Apasan was the only

other player on the team to knock in more than two field goals after recording 8 points.

Meanwhile, in the first semis game, top seed and pennant champions Ol'Aces lived up to high expectations after crushing the Natibu Warriors.

The Ol'Aces had the game in the bag as early as the first quarter after they established a 23-4 lead. The Ol'Aces increased their advantage as the game progressed en route

to their 13th win in as many matches this season.

Brandy Onopwy top-scored for the Ol'Aces with his 11 points, while Greg Sablan and Coby Santos also finished in twin digits with 10 apiece. Aferson Atan, Dean Blake, Frank Bondoc, and N-Nes Siech combined for 27 more points for the Ol'Aces, who will try to keep their unbeaten record and complete its domination in the division with

a victory against NMI/DYS Rollers in tonight's title match.

First Game

Ol'Aces 75 — Onopwy 11, Sablan 10, Santos 10, Atan 8, Blake 7, Bondoc 6, Siech 6, Castro 4, Ngirarois 4, Castillo 3, Manglona 2, Kabiriel 2.

Natibu 42 — R. Sulap 12, Lifoifoi 12, H. Aguon 5, Fejeran 5, T. Sulap 2, Malwelbug 2, Kainoa 2, Garde 2, Torres 2.

Scoring by quarters: 23-4,

2017 Tagaman Awards Banquet

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Participants in the 2017 Tagaman Triathlon held late last month pose for a group photo at the beachside of Kanoa Resort.



Winners in the mixed relay race pose for a photo.



From left, pro finishers Nap Dizon, Joe Miller, Aleksandr Dorovskikh, Kaon Cho, and Ian Solana are recognized at the awards presentation.



Awards ceremony host Glenn Policare, left, of Kanoa Resort interviews women's pro champion Manami Iijima of Guam.



The winners in the 55 to 59 age group celebrate at the podium.



Men's 50 to 54 champion Tyce Mister, center, raises the arms of the two runners-up in the division during the awards ceremony.



Caleb Wang celebrates his victory in the 15 to 19 division.

The Top 3 finishers in the men's relay event gather for a group photo at the medal podium.



All rise as Judge smashes his way to Home Run Derby title

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Saipan Tribune Sports

2-time champ
Nadal loses 15-13 in 5th set at Wimbledon

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Coume gets doubles title in Australia

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Another CNMI junior player excelled in an off-island tournament as Coume Kaga partnered with New Caledonia's Clara Cwajgenbaum in ruling the girls 12-and-under doubles event of the 2017 Rod Laver Lead held in Australia.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Ol'Aces' Dean Blake, left, is fouled by Natibu Warriors' Jeff Omar during the second quarter of their semis game in the boys U18 division of the Diaz youth caging last Monday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Ol'Aces vs Rollers in U18 finals

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Ol'Aces and NMI/DYS Rollers will dispute the boys U18 division title in the 2017 Francisco M. Diaz Memorial Youth League after eliminating their respective opponents last Monday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Ol'Aces eased their way to the finals after clobbering the Natibu Warriors in the first Final Four match, 75-42. The NMI/DYS Rollers also registered a double-digit winning margin against the 670 Sonics XVI.

in the second game, 64-45, to move into the title match that will be played tonight at 7pm.

The NMI/DYS Rollers managed to win by 20 points against the 670 Sonics XVI after the latter folded up in the fourth quarter.

The final canto started with NMI/DYS Rollers ahead by only 5, 45-40, but the game started to slip away from the 670 Sonics XVI's hands as the former held its foe to just two field goals in that pivotal canto. Sean Rafols and Bryan De Guzman made the

See OL'ACES on Page 26



Coume and Cwajgenbaum secured the division championship in the main draw of the 29-team field after pulling off an upset over the No. 1 seed pair of Arabella Barnett and Tianyu Dong of Australia in an extended finale last July 4 (results of the title game were posted at the event website just last Sunday) at the Queensland Tennis Centre in Brisbane. The No. 8 seed Coume and Cwajgenbaum stunned Barnett and Dong in the opening set, 6-2, but could not close out the title match early after the Aussie duo came back with a 6-3 triumph in the second. With the finals tied, the opposing teams had to play in a super-tiebreaker third set and they went neck and neck in the deciding stage of the match before the CNMI-New Caledonia combination prevailed in the more

than two-hour tiff, 15-13.

Before stealing the thunder from the favored Aussie pair,

Coume and Cwajgenbaum also eliminated two higher seeded teams to make it to

the finals. In the quarterfinals, Coume and Cwajgenbaum See COUME on Page 26



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Coume Kaga makes a return to sister Conatsu during a game in a local tournament at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan courts late last year. Coume competed in two tournaments in Australia this month and won a doubles crown.

CNMI to compete in 3x3 caging in Mini Games

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Mariana Islands Basketball Federation will be fielding a men's team in the 3x3 competition in the 2017 Pacific Mini Games that will be held in Vanuatu this December.

MIBF official Elias Rangamar, in an interview with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, made the announcement after being informed by Northern Marianas Sports Association president Michael White on the inclusion of the 3x3 in the calendar of events for the Mini Games that will run from Dec. 2 to 15 in Port Vila.

"Players won't be selected. Instead we will hold a qualifying tournament and the team that wins the competition will represent the CNMI," Rangamar said.



The qualifier is an open tournament, however interested players must meet the eligibility requirements of the Mini Games. Only citizens of the country they are representing are allowed to participate in the quadrennial meet. Each team must have four players and a coach and monetary assistance will be provided by NMSA for the squad's trip to Vanuatu.

"For now, we will only have a qualifier for the men's teams because we don't have enough female players at this time. We

See CNMI on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Dan Barcenas pulls up for a shot against Alex Standish during their game in the outdoor San Antonio summer caging last May. The Mariana Islands Basketball Association is looking for an outdoor court that will host its qualifying tournament for the 3x3 competition in the 2017 Pacific Mini Games.